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LIBERIA.

A republic founded by black men, reared by black men, maintained by black men, and which holds out to our hope the brightest prospects.—HENRY CLAY.

BULLETIN No. 30. FEBRUARY, 1907.

ISSUED BY THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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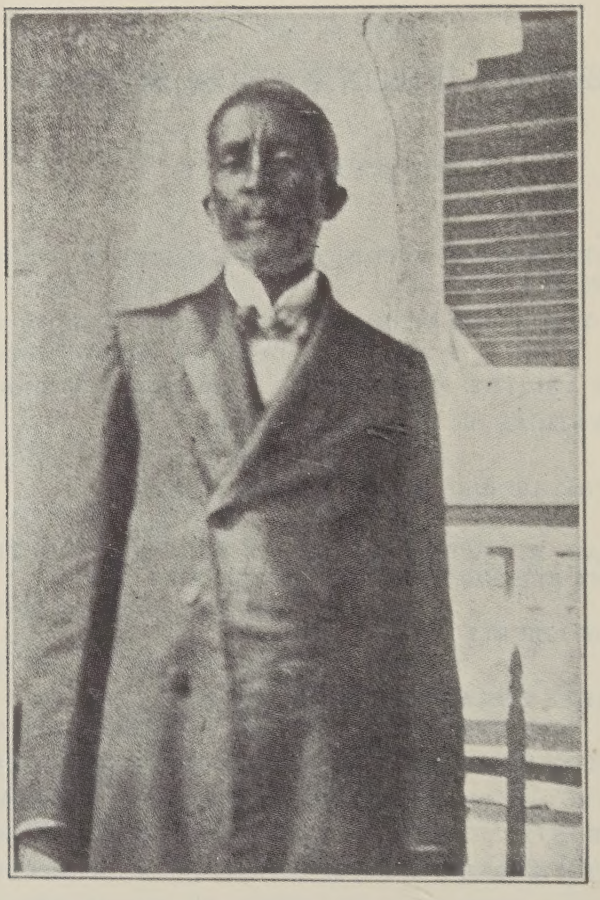

HON. ARTHUR BARCLAY

PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, 1906

LIBERIA.

BULLETIN No. 30. **FEBRUARY, 1907.**

THE NINETIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.

The Rev. Judson Smith, D. D., Secretary of the "American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions," and re-elected President of the American Colonization Society at its last Annual Meeting, died on the 29th of June, 1906.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

All the members of the Executive Committee appointed at the last Annual Meeting have continued in service throughout the year, viz., Mr. J. Ormond Wilson, Mr. James L. Norris, Mr. Clement W. Howard, Mr. William B. Gurley, Dr. Henry L. E. Johnson, Mr. Erskine M. Sunderland, and Dr. John S. McLain.

BULLETINS PUBLISHED IN 1906.

There were published and distributed in February, 1906, 1,500 copies of Bulletin No. 28, and in November, 1906, 1,500 copies of Bulletin No. 29. The former contained an engraving of the President of Liberia College, Rev. R. B. Richardson, D. D., LL. D., and the latter contained one of the Hon. D. E. Howard, the Secretary of the Treasury of Liberia. The Rev. Dr. Richardson was born in the city of Monrovia in 1851, and invested with the full ministerial order of the Baptist Church in 1878. He was chosen President of Liberia College in 1902 to succeed the Rev. G. W. Gibson, who had been elected President of Liberia.

EMIGRATION.

There was no emigration aided by this Society of Negroes from America to Liberia during the past year. There were a few inquiries as to the cost of emigrating, but the answer to these

did not result in any movement. The statement of the President of Liberia that "the men of some culture, the small capitalist, and the men of initiative and push are not inclined at present to come to Liberia" seems to be true.

EDUCATION.

The Rev. G. W. Gibson, D. D., late President of Liberia, has had charge of our educational work during the past year. His well-known attainments render him important in this line and make the income from our limited investments for this purpose very satisfactory.

Mr. Samuel J. Dossen, as heretofore, has carried on the work of the "Hall Free School" at Harper, Cape Palmas. The fund for the support of this school, although not large, was specially donated for it. The people seem to be well satisfied with his administration. There is some complaint that the premises of the school need repairing, and the trustees have been requested to name them in detail and the amount of funds required for the same. If the sum is not too large this Society may be able to furnish it.

Mr. Rixard P. Greene still continues in charge of Graham School, No. 1, at Greenville, Sinoe county. There are about 50 pupils in attendance here, 40 Liberian boys and girls and 10 natives.

Mr. A. D. Simpson continues in charge of Graham School, No. 3, at Royesville, Montserrado county. This school is composed of Liberian boys and girls and natives.

At the Annual Meeting of the American Colonization Society, Dr. Johnson, the Committee to Nominate the Officers for the ensuing year, nominated the Rev. Samuel E. Appleton, D. D., of Pennsylvania, for President, and he was unanimously elected.

Upon the notification of his election he wrote the following note to the Secretary:

No. 1804 Delancy Place, Philadelphia,
January 17, 1907.

J. Ormond Wilson, Esq., *Secretary.*

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 16th instant, informing me of my unanimous election as President of the American Colonization Society, has been received.

I accept the honor conferred upon me with high appreciation. My age and the infirmities consequent I fear will prevent my very active participation in your good work. If my name and best wishes serve the good of the noble Society which has honored me by electing me its President, I shall be very glad.

Yours very sincerely,

SAMUEL E. APPLETON.

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF LIBERIA, DECEMBER 15, 1904.

PRESIDENT ARTHUR BARCLAY.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In accordance with the provision of the organic statute of our State, we are here today to review the progress of our affairs during the past year, as well as to give and to take such counsel as may upon mature consideration and reflection appear most fit and proper for the further guidance and direction of the business and interests of the Republic.

It seems proper, in the first place, to direct attention to internal conditions. During your recess death has deprived the State of an able, devoted, and capable public servant, the Hon. H. J. Moore, Secretary of the Interior. His father, G. Moore, Esq., a prominent merchant largely interested in the interior trade, for many years before the formation of the Interior Department was recognized as the agent of the Government of Liberia among the tribes of the hinterland of Montserrado, among whom he was widely known. His tactful management maintained the peace of a great part of the province for many years, especially of the districts contiguous to the Americo-Liberian townships. It was through neglect of the advice given by him toward the end of his life that the country between the Little Cape Mount and the St. Paul's rivers has been for over twenty years in a disturbed condition. Secretary Moore received from his father much useful information and sound advice as to the manner in which the native population ought to be controlled and governed.

Dr. Moore was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Cheeseman in 1892, and directed that department for about twelve years. His attitude toward the native population was sympathetic and his policy conciliatory. It is to be regretted that his ideas were not always popular, especially among the less thoughtful section of our civilized population. But Secretary Moore made a lasting contribution to the country's prosperity and progress when he succeeded eventually in convincing the community that the policy he advocated and invariably followed was and is the correct one.

No bill, as far as I have been able to ascertain, has since the Declaration of Independence passed the Legislature providing for the local organization and government of the territory. The necessity for such a measure has now become urgently necessary. It may be said we have townships—our smallest political units—and these townships are grouped into counties. So much was done before 1848. Since that time, as regard townships and their boundaries, every man has done what was right in his own eyes. The public statutes accord to the township a territory of eight miles square. In Montserrado county the township of Virginia claims that the township of Brewerville is in its territory. No one knows where the township of Brewerville begins and ends. There is also an unpleasant boundary dispute between the townships of Arthington and Millsburg in the same county. Misunderstandings and difficulties of a like nature exist elsewhere in the territory of the Republic. I recommend that the townships should have an area of six miles square; that all townships be laid out under direction of the President; that they be called into existence by public proclamation, and in such proclamation the boundary of each be indicated and the inhabitants dwelling therein be directed to elect and appoint the local authorities, notifying their initial action to the Secretary of the Interior, who shall immediately give publicity to the same; said township shall then be considered as properly organized. In the same connection I think it will be found advisable that the native districts be considered and treated as townships under the government of the native authorities. In the act power of subdivision and rearrangement under direction of the President ought to be re-

served. The native chief in charge, commissioned by the President, will be treated as the local authority.

The government of townships needs your attention. The third article of the act, establishing the boundaries of counties of the Republic and regulating towns and villages, declares that the several townships shall be bodies corporate, but it is not settled by whom the corporate authority is to be exercised after town meeting has adjourned. The power of taxation was placed in the hands of the town assembly, which meets the first Tuesday in October, and also the appointment of one treasurer and three overseers of police. Without warrant, as far as I can see, the assemblies have appointed the commissioners to exercise executive authority. The town assembly has not been altogether a success. I suggest that a mayor and council, elected every two years, be substituted for the town assembly, the elections to take place the first Tuesday in October in specified years.

The act authorizing the President to open certain roads in the county of Maryland has been put into operation. Starting from Webo, stations have been established, at intervals of one day's march, at Tuobo, Ketibo, and Pan. Each commissioner is supported by a police guard of twelve men. The upkeep of the stations and police guard will necessitate an annual expenditure of $11,000. Of this sum it is proposed to spend $1,000 a year in widening and improving old paths, building permanent bridges, and cutting out new roads. The establishment of the stations was a matter of gratification to the native population of the districts affected.

The route suggested for the proposed waterway between Harper and the Cavalla river has been examined. It cannot be made practicable unless at an expense of about $6,000. A map of the country and of the creeks between Harper and Cavalla river, drawn by Mr. T. J. R. Faulkner, who with the Hon. J. J. Dossen was appointed to survey the route, will be laid before you. The stations authorized on the Anglo-Liberian frontier have not yet been taken in hand.

I hope the Legislature will not adjourn before passing a bill to regulate the government of the native communities of the country. This matter cannot be any longer delayed. A national policy in this regard ought to initiated. The territory should be

controlled through the leading native families. We ought to make it a point to recognize and support them and get them to work with us. The desired bill should be arranged on the following lines: Assimilation of tribal territory to townships; right of inhabitants to land within a specified area; local self-government granted to people; the recognition and administration of customary native law, both locally and by courts of the Republic; supervision of native population by commissioners living among them; the creation of two new courts—the court of the native chief and that of the district commissioner. The former will take, in native communities, the place of the justice of the peace in the townships inhabited by the civilized population. The latter will deal with appeals from the court of the native chief and will hear and settle disputes between members of different sections of the same tribe, or persons of different tribes within his jurisdiction. Jails, fees, and costs are subjects which for the present ought to be left to Executive regulation, through the Attorney General. Appeals from district commissioners should be to the court of quarter sessions of each county, which courts should also deal with crimes of a serious character. The bill should also accord to the Executive the power or issuing such regulations as may be requested or advised by the native chiefs, which regulations would, of course, have the force of law until expressly disallowed by the Legislature. It should also be made a misdemeanor for any chief or other person to refuse to obey the summons of the President, the Secretary of the Interior, or the superintendent of county or district, when it becomes necessary to investigate matters and things tending to disturb the peace of the country.

The Acting Secretary of the Interior will submit his report, and from that document the Legislature will be informed what the Government has striven to effect in the hinterland and on the coast since your last session.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction will submit his report for 1904. It will show over 5,000 pupils in the public and mission schools of the country. The expenditure has averaged $25,000. Beside this we are spending about $10,000 a year on the college. The latter is an absolute necessity, since it is from the ranks of its students that we will obtain the most efficient

teachers of our primary and secondary schools. The great wants of the public schools at present are books and a defined course of instruction. The Government will give the tuition. Parents must pay for the books which their children need. People never properly value that which costs them nothing. We must not pauperize the people. My idea is that as soon as the prescribed course is laid down and a list of the books required given, the Government might arrange for the establishment of a book depository in Monrovia with agencies throughout the country. The owner or manager ought to be guaranteed against eventual loss. We ought not to sacrifice the future of our children to the necessities of the present adult generation. The education of the youth of the country should in no way be connected with its political parties. Our public schools system will never amount to very much as long as the superintendents and commissioners of education are for the most part political appointments. For the party system is necessarily applied, and controls in the main the appointments of the teachers. We need efficient, zealous, and punctual teachers. There is need for careful selections. Many otherwise capable persons cannot impart instruction to others. They do not attract and cannot interest the children; have no enthusiasm for the work; indeed are often otherwise objectionable. The superintendents, knowing this, are hindered from refusing employment to such persons for fear of offending a good partisan or a local boss. Then it is observed, too, that the county superintendents do not inspect the schools in their districts quarterly, as is required by the public school law. Hence they can make no suggestions. They do not often remove teachers, many of whom shamefully neglect their charges. It is necessary to put life into the dead bones of our system of public instruction. We ought to take the schools out of politics. It is universally recognized that the money spent on public education of the right sort is a national investment of great productive value. It is a gilt-edged national security. We ought not then to be so indifferent about it. If we must make the investment then we must get full value for the money expended. I recommend that the superintendent of public instruction be created a member of the cabinet, so as to place him in immediate touch with the heads of the State; that an advisory board of education

be created, the members of which shall be appointed by the President for a term of three years, serving without pay, to advise and assist the superintendent of instruction. To the superintendent and board ought to be handed over the distribution of the educational funds, the appointment of superintendent of the schools in each county, and the management of the whole system of public instruction. I cordially indorse the suggestion of the superintendent of public instruction that a fee of two cents per week be required of each child attending a public school, the money to be applied to the purchase of books.

The act creating the Bureau of Agriculture has been put into operation. Its organ, *The Agricultural World,* is printed at public expense, besides which the bureau will issue bulletins on subjects of interest to the agricultural communities. These it will distribute through the local committees provided for by the act.

The question of cotton-growing in West Africa is claiming considerable attention in Europe. Liberia is well known to be a cotton-producing country. The plant here is perennial. Some of our citizens, I learn, are giving special attention to its culture. In view of the depression in the coffee trade, it will be to the interest of our agricultural districts to extend the industry in the fertile regions with which the Republic abounds. The Government, it is needless to say, will give every assistance and afford every facility for the extension and development of the growth of that and other valuable staples.

The report of the Postmaster General will show you that the postal department continues to make satisfactory progress. The money-order office is of great public service, and its advantages are daily being utilized. The progressive development of the department has entailed considerable outlay, and its revenues are insufficient to meet its expenses. It ought to be remembered that this department is maintained as a public agent, and that it cannot in this country, at present, afford a surplus revenue. What is maintained for the service of the people of the State should be supported by the people.

The revenue of the Post Office this year is returned at $7,466.70. All expenses, except the salaries of some of the officials, have been met out of this. Contributions to the expenses

of the International Bureau at Berne, sea transit of letters, stationery, printing of stamps, postal supplies, salaries of General Post Office officials, boat hire, salaries of the Monrovia post office are paid out of the postal revenues. The Postmaster General is exceedingly anxious to place the service on the same footing in all parts of the country, but he is hampered by want of funds. The state of the public finances will not admit of any large sum being spent on the service out of revenue from other sources. I hope that the Legislature will, after ten years' solicitation, pass the stamp act, constantly suggested since 1894. If not satisfactory in the way put before you, pass the measure modifying the scale of fees. There is no tangible reason why it should be longer ignored. It is a proposal entirely in the interest of the people. I think, too, the Legislature should pass some measure for the encouragement of thrift among our people. I would recommend that the Postal Department be authorized to establish postal savings banks.

I fear the unguarded expressions of some of our judges are affecting the reputation for impartiality which our courts have hitherto sustained. The judges of subordinate courts seem at present to have the opinion that they are subject to no sort of control, either on the part of the Supreme Court or of the Executive Government. With their judgments, where there does not exist a well-grounded suspicion of corruption, or provided they do not violate constitution or law, the Executive power has nothing to do. I am of the opinion that if a judge proves unfit from want of legal knowledge the Executive ought to suspend him and report the facts to the Legislature for action. The judges are civil officers; they are, therefore, to be supervised by the Executive Government as regards their conduct and deportment, since these must materially affect the respect in which the judicial office ought to be held. These remarks are to some extent called out by a discussion which the Government of the Republic has been carrying on during the year with the Imperial German Foreign Office, with regard to the case of *Fischer & Lemcke v. Houston Bros. & Co.* for dissolution of partnership. This case was filed in the court of equity, Montserrado county, in November, 1903, and was decided for plaintiffs at the December term of 1903. The defendants appealed, and the judgment

was reversed by the Supreme Court at its session of January of the present year. On May 19 the German consul complained (1) that in said case several serious violations by illegal actions of Liberian officials had been committed, and (2) that the Supreme Court of this Republic by its judgment in said case had been perverting justice to the disadvantage of a German firm, and intimated that an indemnity would probably be demanded.

It may not be generally known that alien residents have wider powers of redress for judicial wrongs than citizens. The latter are bound by the action of the court of their own country. The former are not so precluded. Government may question the judgment and may institute an investigation as to its fairness and legality.

The principle is thus enunciated in Taylor's *International Law,* p. 260, sec. 214:

"The responsibility of a State for the conduct of its judicial officers rests upon an entirely different basis. In all highly organized modern States systems such officers are placed in positions of greater or less independence so as to protect them, except in case of high misdemeanors, from all responsibility to the other departments of power. International law supposes that the tribunals are open for impartial administration of justice between natives and foreigners, and only when there has been palpable denial of it, after the foreigner has made adequate appeal to such tribunals, does the occasion arise for diplomatic intervention."

It is not necessary to affirm that a government is not responsible in any case to a foreign government for an alleged erroneous judicial decision rendered to the prejudice of a subject of said foreign government. But it may be safely asserted that this responsibility can only arise in a proceeding when the foreigner, being duly notified, shall have made a full and *bona fide,* though unavailing defence, and, if necessary, shall have carried his case to the tribunal of last resort. If after having made such defence, and prosecuted such appeal he shall have been unable to obtain justice, then, and then only, can a demand be with propriety made upon the government. Redress must be denied on some palpably unjust ground, such as discrimination on account of alienage, or there must be arbitrary acts of oppression or deprivation of property as contradistinguished from penalties and the

punishments incurred through the ordinary infraction of law, before the administration of a State's justice can be subjected to diplomatic inquisition.

That this discussion has taken place at all is directly due to the indiscreet remarks and unfounded statements of persons connected with the judiciary of Liberia.

The representatives of foreign powers in Liberia should remember that in all countries, especially in oriental lands, before making complaints it is absolutely necessary to *verify your facts.* The first point in the complaint of the German representatives was understood incidentally to question the right of the Supreme Court of Liberia to control the procedure of the subordinate courts. As a brief statement of the law in this regard may be serviceable I will cite it. In the Constitution of Liberia, article IV, it is ordained as follows:

"SECTION 1. The judicial power of this Republic shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and such subordinate courts as the Legislature may from time to time establish.

"SECTION 2. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases affecting ambassadors, or other public ministers and consuls and those to which a country shall be a party. In all other cases the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions and under such regulations as the Legislature shall from time to time make."

The term "judicial power" is thus defined by Mr. Bouvier:

"The authority vested in the judges. The authority exercised by that department of government which is charged with the declaration of what the law is and its construction so far as it is written law. The power to construe and expound the law as distinguished from the legislative and executive functions. The power conferred upon courts in the strict sense of that term; courts that compose one of the great departments of the government. The term 'power' could with no propriety be applied nor could the judiciary be denominated a department without the means of enforcing its decree. The term 'judicial power' conveys the idea both of exercising the faculty of judging and applying physical force to give effect to a decision. Judicial power is never exercised for the purpose of giving effect to the will of the judge; always for the purpose of giving effect to the will of the legislature; or, in other words, to the will of the law."

It will be noticed that the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, both original and appellate, is fixed by the Constitution. It is a settled legal principle that where a jurisdiction is conferred and no forms prescribed for its exercise, there is an inherent power in the court to adopt a mode of proceeding adapted to the exigency of the case.

I do not think it will be denied, therefore, that the Supreme Court has an inherent right to supervise the subordinate courts in such a manner as to prevent disorder and failure of justice. This right grows out of its appellate jurisdiction in all cases.

But, notwithstanding this, the Legislature has from time to time affirmed the right by statutory enactment. The seventh section of an act to amend the fifth article of an act entitled "An act to establish the judiciary and fixing the powers common to several courts," passed in 1858, reads as follows:

"It is further enacted, that the Supreme Court, or Chief Justice, in the interim of said court, shall have the power to issue writs of prohibition to the county courts when proceeding as courts of admiralty and in the exercise of maritime jurisdiction; and writs of mandamus, in cases when a new trial, a writ of error, or an appeal has been denied; or when it is proved that the judge otherwise failed to do his duty, agreeably to the principles and usages of law, to any courts created, or persons appointed and holding office under the authority of the Republic of Liberia."

An act reorganizing the Supreme Court was passed in 1875. Section 5 of this law contains the following:

"Upon satisfactory application to the Chief Justice, or either of the associate justices during the *recess* of the Supreme Court, it shall be lawful for either of them to issue such writs or processes as are usual in the common law and the practice of the Supreme Court of the United States, or order the same issued from the clerk's office."

Among the prerogative writs mentioned in common law, which by statutory enactment is a part of our civil code, except when otherwise expressly directed by the Legislature of Liberia, is the writ of mandamus. The right to issue such a writ appertains exclusively to a judge of the Supreme Court.

Of this writ it is said that it lies to prevent failure of justice. It extends to the control of all inferior tribunals, corporations, public officers, and persons. It may be granted by an appellate court to require a judge to settle and allow a bill of exceptions.

In the case of *Fischer & Lemcke v. Houston Bros. & Co.* Judge King made an *ex parte* order to which defendants took exceptions. The judge refused to allow their exceptions to be recorded. The defendants then applied to Associate Justice Richardson, who upon their petition issued a mandamus to Judge King to allow their exceptions to be noted or show cause why he refused to do so. The judge upon this declared that he would have nothing further to do with the case, and thus created the impression that the judges of the Supreme Court were exercising authority not warranted by law.

It would have been impossible to have the order of Judge King reviewed in appeal, unless the defendants' exceptions were on record.

The law on Appeals, chap. XX, sec. 10, 1st Liberian Statutes, declares:

"The court to which the appeal is taken shall examine the matter in dispute, upon the record only; they shall receive no additional evidence, and they shall reverse no judgment for any default of form, or for any matter to which the attention of the court below shall not appear to have been called either by some bill of exceptions or other part of the record."

Of course, in the end the mandamus was obeyed and the exceptions noted, but the erroneous impression remained. The right of the judges of the Supreme Court to supervise the procedure of the subordinate courts rests securely on both constitution and statute law.

With respect to the second exception, that the judgment of the Supreme Court was a perversion of justice, the German authorities have so far presented no evidence. Indeed the discussion would seem to indicate a charge of erroneous judgment rather than of intentional unfairness. The Government of Liberia took the ground that the defendants having gone into court it must be presumed that they went there to have some wrong corrected or injustice redressed. They were, therefore, bound to prove their allegations. If they did not do so no blame can be attached to

the Supreme Court. They were quite at liberty, too, to renew their case, which ought not to be made the subject of diplomatic action until the point in dispute had been legally and fully adjudicated.

It has been finally agreed that the question whether there was intentional unfairness in the trial be settled by an arbitrator, whose decision shall be final.

This case attracted locally a great deal of attention and elicited much passionate discussion. It would perhaps be a wise innovation if the judges of the Supreme Court would sometimes reserve their opinions until the passion of suitors, counsellors, and supporters had had time to subside. We are pleased to see the courts of justice dispatch business promptly and without delay; but with regard to the Supreme Court, the bar and thinking citizens generally would be glad to see just a little less hurry—more time given to cases argued before it. It is due to the country that the court place itself above just criticism, and it can only do this by keeping resolutely apart from the passions of the arena and by its calm, careful, well-digested, and matured opinions on the many important cases submitted for its decision. I am impressed, after twenty years' contest, that the court has always striven to act up to its motto: "Let justice be done to all."

A great source of weakness in the Government of Liberia is the very short tenure of office accorded to the President and members of the Legislature. Twelve months after inauguration the President is called upon to justify his administration and to undergo all the trouble and strain of a fresh election. Six months must elapse before he can resume his projects of administration, and if he is defeated he knows that it is useless to do so. In any case he can only have eighteen months' continuous administration before his policy is challenged. Under these circumstances a continuous and progressive policy is almost impossible, because an advance is nullified by a return to the old unprogressive conditions. We are to some extent going around a circle. We have worn out and sacrificed many of our brainiest men without any corresponding national benefit. A member of the Legislature is of very little service until after his first term. If he is not re-elected the $1,200 the State has paid him is as much wasted as if it had been thrown into the sea. For every

avocation in life men must have a special training. It takes quite two years for even a fairly well educated man to learn the House; how to manage it; how to catch its ear and interest it; the rules of order and of business; how to deal with the leaders; how to conciliate and compromise with opponents, and where to go for and how to obtain information on matters of public concern. The good sense of the people has usually accorded to the President and members of the Legislature two terms at least, but many good men have been forced out of the public service by the expense and worry of constant elections. For more than thirty years the necessity for an amendment of the Constitution has been discussed and agreed upon as a national want.

The amendments have been framed, passed the Legislature, and submitted to the people, at the least, on three occasions. Why have they not been carried? Because of a want of moral courage on the part of the men in office and because of the selfishness of political opponents. Why sacrifice the interests of the country to our passions and prejudices? If the amendments are adopted all will have the same chance. But I would not advise that the necessary amendments be considered at this session. I would like to see, first of all, a plank in the platform of some political party to the effect that the Constitution ought to be amended. In two years the people will have become accustomed to the idea, will have had time to hear and consider the reasons for the changes, and will be ready, doubtless, to adopt them. Perhaps it would be better, in order to avoid any charge of self-seeking, if the Legislature passed an act providing for the calling of a constitutional convention for framing a new Constitution, which might embody most of the features of the present, submitting same to the people for adoption. It would greatly simplify matters.

In the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of Liberia the word "Negro" is conspicuously absent. The impression is sought to be conveyed that we are of American origin.

The adhesion, attachment, and support of the native population of the country are of vital importance to us. Yet these important state papers place the civilized Liberian in a false light before the eyes of the aboriginal citizen. He is made to appear as an alien and stranger in Africa, the land of his fathers.

I trust that the recommendations of the Attorney General will have your careful consideration. Abuses and disorder in the judicial branch of the Government ought to be carefully examined and scrutinized with a view to their immediate correction. The question with regard to the legality of appeals from the courts of monthly sessions to the courts of quarter sessions rather than to the Supreme Court should be set at rest by positive enactment.

Our relations with foreign powers are on the most friendly footing. In pursuance with the provisions of the Anglo-Liberian Boundary Agreement the British Government has announced that the survey of the coast of Liberia will be taken in hand during the present month. A map of the frontier and other documents relative to the Anglo-Liberian Delimitation Commission has been received at the Department of State. Liberia's share of the joint expense was found to be £4,836 18s. 2d., equal to $23,117.16. You are requested to make provision for the payment of this sum.

A commission composed of the Attorney General, F. E. R. Johnson, and Associate Justice Dossen was dispatched to France during the year. The commissioners, with our Minister Resident in France, were charged to obtain the speedy execution of the Franco-Liberia agreement of 1892, and to endeavor to arrive at a preliminary understanding with regard to the deviations or changes which might become necessary on lines designated on the agreement, in consequence of said lines running between towns and the territory belonging to them, or splitting the country of a small tribe in two, and such other changes as might appear proper and in accord with the spirit of said agreement.

The representatives of the two Governments were unable to agree with regard to the Cavalla frontier, for which cause and other good reasons our commissioners suspended the negotiations and returned home.

The Government has often found itself much hampered and embarrassed by the fact that its foreign representatives are too little acquainted with the laws and institutions of the country. Therefore where explanations have to be made and the civil and criminal code of the country explained, we are placed at a great disadvantage.

For this reason the Hon. H. W. Travis, Secretary of State, was dispatched to Berlin to discuss with the German Foreign Office the Fischer-Lemcke-Houston case. He was received in the most courteous and friendly manner. He was able to reach a friendly accord. He has communicated to me his impression that the Republic will receive at all times just and considerate treatment from the Imperial German Government, and that we have many warm friends among the people of that great State.

The revenue for the year is expected to show a decrease compared with that of the last year of at least $50,000. The accounts have not been fully made up, but for the half-year ended March 30, from all sources, only $158,664.04 had been received. No blame can be attached to the administration for this. Revenue is an index of the industrial condition of the country and its relation to the markets of the world. The greater in volume and in value the exports and the larger the imports the greater the revenue. For since it is principally obtained from the movement of trade it must flourish or decline in accordance with that movement. First the coffee crop decreased both in quantity and value, and then the piassava-fiber, the principal article of export in the leeward counties, declined in quality and consequently in price. Disturbances in the interior, especially in Montserrado county and in other quarters, have affected conditions. Everything possible is being done to settle the disturbed districts, but as it is easier to excite disturbances than to allay them, it will be some time before the result of these efforts can be seen and appreciated.

Nations, like individuals, must live within their income or else go into bankruptcy, and so lose control to a very great extent of their affairs. It may be useful to place before you a statement of our financial condition.

The foreign bonded debt amounts to £96,997. We are paying interest on £78,250 at the rate of 3½ per cent., and the charge on the revenue for sinking fund and interest will be $16,000 for the next three years. The internal bonded debt amounts to $135,557.17, of which $36,000 bears interest at 6 per cent., and the balance at 3 per cent. The annual charge is about $5,000.

The floating debt is estimated at under $200,000, less than one year's average income. It consists of currency, audited bills, and drafts on the Treasury.

About $150,000 of this sum is held by foreign merchants. It forms the principal embarrassment of the Treasury, since it is being constantly liquidated out of current revenue. To meet the deficit and pay current expenses of government, the Treasury has constantly to ask for advances from the mercantile holders of this debt. For this accommodation it is paying interest at the rate of from 25 to 33 per cent.

The total debt of the country is about $800,000, of which the English 1871 7 per cent. loan is the largest item. The debt would be covered by about three years' revenue.

For the last ten years, 1893 to 1903, the revenue from all sources is returned at $2,243,148. The disbursements were $2,177,556, showing a balance in favor of the country of $65,592.

Unpaid balances due by the receivers of the revenue stamps, etc., account for a very large amount of this balance. Now, if our disbursements represented approximately the sum annually appropriated, there would be no floating debt; but, unfortunately, they do not. The local budgets of the counties of Sino and Maryland, especially for the last ten years, approved and passed by the Legislature, have been double the estimated revenue, as I shall now proceed to show. The total revenue collected in the county of Maryland for the last ten years amounted to $335,598.02. A little less than one-half of this sum is placed at the disposal of the local administration, say $160,000. The appropriations for Maryland county for the same period, or let us say the local budget, have amounted to $243,139.06, most of which was drawn for, and the difference between receipts and expenditures went to form the floating debt.

In fact, the floating debt in that district was found to be about $44,000. Everybody can see how this debt has been brought about. The case is the same in the county of Sino, where the total revenue has during the last ten years amounted to $202,245.70, while the local budgets for the same period have amounted to $235,435.00. As the local administration could control only half, at the most, of the revenue, the difference against the Treasury was at least $100,000. Now, the case is different in the two upper counties; the budgets are more in accord with their financial position. The General Government, having to meet many unforeseen expenses, always, too, owes some-

thing. The Secretary of the Treasury, confronted on one hand with the necessity of paying the floating debt, must, on the other, find means of meeting current expenses. If he does not pay the persons who hold the Government paper they will make no advances, and if he does pay and endeavors at the same time to extinguish the debt by not asking for advances he is met by the angry murmurs of citizens employed in Government service, who require payment of their bills. Now, the real blame lies on the shoulders of the Legislature. The annual budget must rest on certain data, which ought to be estimated for the five years last past and forwarded to Houses by the Treasury. But if the Legislature will not, as it does not, draw up the budget in accordance with these data, the situation will never improve. The average revenue each year for the last ten years has been for the first five years $225,000, and for the last five $266,000. The budget for the General Government, then, must not exceed $160,000; for the county of Montserrado, $40,000; Basa, $35,000; Sino, $16,000; Maryland, $16,000 in hand. If we could be sure that this estimate would be adhered to, then a small loan could be negotiated for paying off the floating debt.

The President of the Republic has for many years been deprived of his right of veto so far as concerns the budget, as it is made the last bill and is generally presented on the last day, just at the last hour, or even a little *after,* the Legislature has adjourned *sine die.* I hope this course will be abandoned. It is contrary to the Constitution.

With the desire, doubtless, of assisting the Republic and of facilitating the development of the country, the French Government by a decree issued during the present year, directed its West African State Bank to establish a branch at Monrovia.

As a direct incentive to vigilance I recommend the passage of a resolution granting to the officers of customs at the ports one-half of the penalty recovered from persons convicted of smuggling at said ports, to be divided among the staff in proportion to the amount of salary. The county attorney for the purposes of this act should be considered a member of the customs staff.—*Sir Harry Johnston, G. C. M. G., K. C. B., D. Sc.*

THE AFRICAN AND THE EUROPEAN.

EDWARD W. BLYDEN.

No race can ever part with its natural and essential qualities, either physical or mental, whatever the modifications to which, under various human systems, it may be subjected. Is this a truism? I believe it is. It would be a great misfortune for the world if the creations in the animal kingdom could be changed by man's inventions or manipulations.

I do not hold to the theory of equality or inequality, either among rational or irrational animals, and often wonder why men should waste their time in a fruitless discussion of the subject, and often appearing to arrive at conclusions which do not express their belief, but are intended only to serve a purpose.

What, for example, can be made of the confusing letter on "The Colour Line," which appeared in the *Tribune* a few days ago? The writer says, ignoring all that has been said by the best men of his race, whether he be Anglo-Saxon or Celt: "Racially he [the Negro] is a distinctly lower type of humanity." This is for the consumption of a certain class of Americans. Then, further on, remembering his obligations to the socialists, of whom he claims to be one, he adds: "I advocate complete political equality with complete social segregation. * * * Teach the Negro to consider himself the white man's social equal, but keep the races apart."

Now, the Negro, where he stands highest in culture and race consciousness, looks upon all this as absurd. There can be no "complete political equality with complete social segregation." This is nonsense. Moreover, the pure specimens of the Negro race subjected to the same untrammeled culture as the white man, whether in the land of his exile in America or in South Africa, does not wish for political equality or any share in politics with the white man, and he considers segregation as desirable, in view of the corruptions which without it he suffers in his blood.

I saw not long ago in the *Times* (July 5, 1906) a letter from a Japanese gentleman protesting against discriminations made against his race on board British steamers plying between England and Japan. He said:

"A Japanese minister plenipotentiary, with his wife, returning from Europe, had to take their meals every day in their own cabin, because the seats allotted to them in the dining saloon were so humble that they could not occupy them without seeming to acquiesce in an indignity to their country. I can assure you that Japanese travelers hitherto, with perhaps some special exceptions, have been generally put in some corner of the dining saloon. This being the case, captains and officers of different ships appear to have regarded it as the normal thing that they should be so treated."

The writer mentions further that a Chinese minister had been subjected to the indignities of which he complains.

Some people may call this bad manners when men, everywhere in their own country treated with the utmost respect, are made to experience such discourtesy for no fault except racial difference. I do not call it bad manners, and would not punish anybody for it. It is due altogether to the racial limitations of those who are guilty of such discourtesy. Mr. Suyematsu, the writer, exonerates the captains and officers from "any intention of deliberate insult." He says: "They were merely acting according to a well-established habit."

Now, the Negro, properly educated—I mean educated on the basis of his own idiosyncracy—never complains against such discrimination. The racial feeling is strong within him; he understands and is glad to have a place apart. It is only those who have been trained as white men in the schools and in the church who grieve at these discriminations, and complain to the companies, who, with the most liberal intentions and with the strictest orders to their officers, are helpless to remedy a state of things having their origin in individual preferences and tastes. *De gustibus non disputandum.*

Now, as to the remark of the writer in the *Tribune* that "racially the Negro is a distinctly lower type of humanity." What is lower, what is higher? The answer is best given in the words of Longfellow:

> "Nothing useless is or low,
> Each thing in its place is best."

The camel for the magnificence and rigors of the desert, the reindeer for the snows and the dreariness of Lapland. Put the

white man in inter-tropical Africa and oblige him to work physically and in the open air for his living, and place the Negro side by side with him on similar work; make the experiment for one month, and then see which is the lower and which the higher type—that is, which is the fittest to survive in those conditions.

I believe that in the progress of human knowledge, when each man, each race knows its place, its gifts and its environment, its possibilities and its limitations, and knows that what it is and what it has have been arranged by Divine Wisdom and goodness for the welfare of each and the welfare of all, there will be no place for pride on the part of the gifted and no place for envy on the part of the non-gifted, as the world views gifts; but each doing its duty in its appointed place, the whole would move on in harmony, without friction, without oppression, without guile, without deceit, and without treachery, but with full confidence in the wisdom, the goodness, the justice, and therefore the necessity, which has arranged all things.

When that light dawns upon the world, it will be seen how futile it is to try to run one race into the mould of another. So far as irrational animals are concerned men are content to deal with them on their own lines. No attempt is made to change their habitat or habits, to subject the camel to the *regime* of the horse, or the sheep to that of the goat, because the impossibility of it and the injury that would accrue if it were possible are at once recognized.

But when it comes to nature's differentiations of the higher animal, man, then attempts are made—good meaning enough they are—to reduce all to the same pattern, to the same spiritual, social, or economic condition, with various and varying results, dependent chiefly upon how far the modifying system is in sympathy or accord with the conditions to be altered or modified.

It might not be uninteresting to inquire how far the various systems or methods which have been applied to the amelioration of African character and conditions by European statesmanship and religion have made for his genuine progress and civilization. This will form the subject of the next article.—*West African Mail.*

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE RACE PROBLEM.

BISHOP C. S. SMITH, D. D., OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

We hear a great deal about the laziness and shiftlessness of the Negro of the South. What are the facts? The largest cotton crop raised before the war was in the year 1859—4,800,000 bales. In that year the weight of a bale of cotton was 400 pounds. In 1902 the cotton crop amounted to 10,680,680 bales, 500 pounds to the bale. So that if we take as a basis 400 pounds, which was the weight of a bale of cotton in 1859, and then take the weight of a bale of cotton in 1902, which was 500 pounds to the bale, the result will show that in 1902 there were 12,850,850 bales of cotton produced of the same weight as that of a bale in 1859. In that year, with slave labor, the cotton crop averaged 480 pounds per capita to each slave, estimating the slave population at 4,000,000. In 1902, with free Negro labor, the cotton crop averaged 571 pounds per capita—the ex-slave population in that year numbering 9,000,000. Conclusive proof that free labor as a producing force is of greater capacity than slave labor, evidenced by the fact that the free Negro population in 1902 raised 91 pounds per capita more than did the slave population in 1859. The former slave population has doubled itself, and just in proportion as it has increased so has the cotton crop of the South increased. In the light of these facts, I ask any man of reason and of common sense where he gets his ground for the assertion that the Negro of the South is shiftless and lazy? Were there no increase in the product of his labor there would be some ground for the charge that he is shiftless and lazy.

So much for the cotton crop. What about the sugar industry and the rice industry? The three staple agricultural products of the South are cotton, sugar, and rice. The output of sugar has increased proportionately with that of cotton, and the same is true of rice. Then look at the extension of the railroad system. And, mark you, it is a rare thing to see a white man working as a section hand on a southern railroad. The section bosses are white men, but the section hands proper are all colored men;

and where you found one before the war you will now find a hundred or more. And why? Because the great railroad interests of the South have so largely increased and been extended.

Take the lumber industry. Before the war the lumber industry was almost unknown anywhere in the South. Now there are a large number of lumber mills, as you will find in connection with them a large number of Negro laborers.

Take the mining interest. The mining of iron and coal was practically unknown in the South before the war. Take the great Birmingham district in Alabama. There you will find that where not a single black man worked in iron or steel mills before the war now there are thousands. Then look at the general growth of the mining interests in the South. Where you find one Negro employed before the war in mining coal and iron you will now find a thousand. Last year the output of iron and coal in Alabama alone was 21,000,000 tons. Therefore, if there are not as many Negroes at work on the plantations as formerly, it cannot properly be charged to their idleness or shiftlessness. Before the war they had nothing else to do but to work on the plantations; since the beginning of the development of the South's magnificent natural resources fully a half million of former male plantation laborers are employed in various other industries.

Then look at the growth of the cities and towns in the South—another source of decrease in the rural population. Thousands of Negroes who were once employed as plantation laborers are now engaged as domestics in the cities and towns, and in developing and maintaining the public works necessary to the health and orderly movement of city and town life.

I do not say that there are no idle Negroes in the South; I do not say that there are no idle white people in the South. There are idle white people and there are idle Negroes in every section of the country. Until you see angels ascend from hell and devils descend from heaven you need not expect that all white people or all Negroes will be industrious and virtuous. At least the reverse of this condition need not be expected until the millennium dawns.

I take the position that the American Negro, whether good, bad, or indifferent, is the product of American civilization. In

other words, whatever the American Negro is the American white man has made him.

The testimony of Livingstone, Stanley, and all the other great African explorers is that the African in his native home, where removed from the presence and influence of the white man, is vested with the virtues of primitive innocency. Viciousness is no more an innate characteristic of the African than it is of any other race variety.

A significant fact which I do not understand is how that civilization in the hands of the English has seemingly produced a Negro of more intrinsic qualities than has civilization in the hands of the Americans. There is not an area of soil anywhere on the face of the earth over which the British flag floats as a symbol of power and controlling influence where a civilized Negro, reared on British soil, has made an assault on a white woman. A fact which is perhaps equally true of the uncivilized African. To confirm this, one has but to study the history of Canada, the British West Indies, and the British spheres of influence in West, South, and Central Africa. Twelve years ago, during a voyage of 3,000 miles along the west and southwest coast of Africa and a portion of the Congo region, I made this subject a point of special inquiry. I traveled within the spheres of English, French, German, Spanish, and Portuguese influence, and conversed freely with the representatives of each, and not a single instance was reported to me where an African had attempted an assault upon a white woman. The assertion that without mob law in the South as a deterrent no white woman in the rural district could leave her home unescorted without being attacked by a Negro rapist is a charge which, if true, stands rather against the white man instead of against the Negro—keeping in mind the fact that the American Negro is the product of American civilization. Barbadoes, a British West India island, and one of the most populous places, excluding towns, in the whole world, has a population of 180,000, of which number only 16,000 are whites. Here indeed is black supremacy so far as numbers are concerned, and yet there is no case on record of a black man attempting to rape a white woman. On investigation this will be found not only to be true in the British West Indies, but also in the French, the Danish, and the Dutch. The British

colony of Sierra Leone, on the west coast of Africa, has a population of 75,000, of which number only 70 are whites. Here, also, an insignificant minority stands in no dread of a great black majority. In pursuing this line of thought I cannot help but surmise that there is something radically defective in American civilization in its relation to the development of the darker races.

The American Negro has been formed in the mold which the white man fashioned. When we were slaves there was no particular complaint against us; we were good Negroes then. Only since we have been free has fault been found with us. Now if at the end of 287 years the American white man has found out that his first job has been a failure, that he did not make as good a Negro as he thought he had, let him kindle anew the fires in the furnace of his civilization, reduce the Negro to his original composite elements, smelt and fuse and mold him over again and make a new Negro, divested of the so-called vicious and animal instincts of the present one. Let him do his first work over again, and try to improve on Negro number one. This will be more to his credit than to be eternally grumbling and fault-finding with the work of his own hands.—*Southwestern Christian Advocate.*

LETTER TO THE AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL WORLD.

MONROVIA, *December* 5, 1906.

To the Editor of the African Agricultural World:

I have read with great pleasure and interest the *Agricultural World* for last month, especially the organization of the Farmers' Alliance in Grand Bassa county, and I write to congratulate you upon your success, not only in reawakening interest in agriculture, but also in giving it organic shape.

Commissioner Parker and yourself, and those who are cooperating with you, are doing a work of primary importance. If you can get Liberians to see the comfort, the independence, the wealth which lies in the soil you will solve the problem of prosperity for the institution of the nation.

I was a student in the university when, in 1871, Germany crushed France and imposed a mountain-like debt upon her.

Everybody thought France ruined. But before I got well started as a young man upon the practice of the law France had paid Germany the uttermost farthing and stood the wonder and admiration of the nations. She did it out of the sweat of the brow of her citizen farmers. Out of the soil they dug up the money which freed their country from the iron grasp of Germany.

If the people of this nation want money to be plentiful here, if they want to build up their schools and to give their children the practical education of this and other lands, they must make our exports exceed our imports, and the first source of income must be from the farm.

I have recently run across some figures in connection with the amazing prosperity of the United States of America, and I quote them to you, believing that they will interest your readers.

Never before in any nation or in any age has the volume of business equaled the amount done today in America. The stupendous prosperity of that nation is not confined to any section, but is general. Asked for explanation of this marvelous prosperity, an eminent economic writer says:

"The mainstay of the United States still is, and will long remain, the tillage of its fields. Its main business still is, and will long remain, the care, the transportation, the manufacture and export of agricultural products—grain, cotton, live stock, and the by-products associated with these. During the past five years our farm production has been marked by phenomenal crops, associated sometimes with large acreage, sometimes with high prices, sometimes all three in combination.

"Our principal crops, in order of total value, are: 1, corn; 2, hay; 3, cotton; 4, wheat; 5, oats. The total value of these five crops for the years 1895 to 1900 was nine billion dollars ($9,000,000,000). For the years 1900 to 1905 the returns for these same crops were above fourteen billion dollars ($14,000,000,000). This is an advance of more than 55 per cent., and has been accomplished with no unprecedented increase in our general population, in the average involved in the crops, in the number of laborers employed in them, or the amount of the capital in use.

"This means that the American farmer is in a position of greater economic independence, not to say wealth, than has ever before been known to the tiller of the soil in the whole history of the human race. The imports are swallowed up by our exports. The balance of trade in our favor is such as probably no three other nations of the world combined could show."

These interesting figures, Mr. Editor, indicate the basis of the wealth, the independence, the general prosperity of the American people, and they should inspire our citizens to follow your lead in your efforts to revive our agricultural industries.

T. McCants Stewart.

THE AMERICAN MINISTER'S REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN LIBERIA.

The inspiration which gave birth in 1891 to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States came one day in the year 1816 under the preaching of Marcus Lindsay in Marietta, Ohio, when a drunken colored man named John Steward strayed accidentally into the service. Through the influence of the preaching he was convicted and converted, and soon therefore by a strange providence became the first Methodist Episcopal missionary to the aborigines of the Western world.

Simultaneous with this missionary movement in the same year, 1816, at Washington, forces, influenced by the moral upheaval against the growth of human slavery and the desire to found an asylum for freed colored persons in the United States, gave birth to the American Colonization Society, an institution which is responsible for what is now the Republic of Liberia. It seems significant that these two movements, one of a secular and the other of a religious character, should have had their inspiration in the conduct and condition of the Negro.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was officially organized in Liberia about 1832, nearly 74 years ago, when Melville B. Cox, a member of the Virginia Conference, was appointed by Bishop Hedding as the first missionary to Liberia. It is, nevertheless, asserted that the church had been already organized on board the "Elizabeth," the first ship sent out by the American Colonization Society, ten days after her departure from New York, in 1820, by Daniel Coker, a Methodist emigrant bound for the west coast of Africa. After his arrival in Liberia he continued to administer to the society until the coming of Cox, who gave to the work

the sanction of official authority. Coker is acknowledged as the father and founder of Liberian Methodism.

The mission in Liberia was the first foreign missionary enterprise undertaken by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, and is therefore the church's eldest foreign missionary offspring

Cox was in feeble health when he left for Africa. It was strange that he should have selected it as the scene of his missionary labors, when he did not himself expect to live any length of time in so inhospitable a climate as obtained in Liberia at that time. His ambition, however, was to reach Africa in order that he might, as he expressed it himself, establish by his death a bond between Africa and his church at home that should not be broken until Africa was redeemed. He lived long enough to accomplish the purpose of organization and to give general inspiration to the work, and died four months after his arrival. His remains, with other faithful missionaries, now lie buried in the cemetery at Monrovia. His grave is marked by a modest stone, upon which is inscribed this significant epitaph, suggested by himself: "Let a thousand fall before Africa is given up."

The wish of this inspired man has been fulfilled in a most singular manner. Some of the ablest, best, and most consecrated men of both races in Methodism have labored in answer to his prayer as missionaries in this field. Many of them fell victims to the rigor of the African climate, while others returned enfeebled in health and unfitted for further service. Foremost among these early pioneers may be mentioned John Seys, Ann Wilkins, Sopronia Farrington, Dr. Goheen, and Burns and Roberts, descendants of the emigrants who became bishops. Later came Bishop William Taylor, regarded as the Paul of modern times, whose memory still lingers in the native hamlets of the Republic. His efforts were ably supplemented by Bishop Joseph C. Hartzell, who in the zeal and abundance of his labors proved himself not only a worthy successor to them all, but a master in details and in organization. Now comes as resident bishop the present incumbent, the Rev. Isaiah B. Scott, D. D., a man born in due time, whose remarkable gifts, as the result of one year's work have already shown, unquestionably fit him in the highest degree for this post of more than ordinary importance to the church and significance to the Negro race he represents.

The work has steadily grown from those days to these. It has had, of course, like all other institutions, its ebb and flow. What was once the mission conference with half a dozen stations and a few communicants, and supervised by a local superintendent, is now an annual conference with two regularly elected bishops with co-ordinate official supervision. Thousands of people, both of the Americo-Liberian and of the indigenous population, have been brought under its influence. The very life of the Republic has been at times in the keeping of this denomination. Several of its presidents and very many of its prominent officials have been members of this communion. Under the present administration the Vice-President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Interior, the Postmaster General, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the governor of the county of Montserrado, the superintendent of the territory of Grand Cape Mount, the collector of customs of the chief center in the Republic, the mayor of the city of Monrovia, together with many of the legislators and prominent military officials, are either ministers or laymen in the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Annual Conference of this church, to which your attention is directed, has just been held in Edina, Grand Bassa county. The occasion brought together a number of talented and influential men and women, both clerical and lay. The body was composed of 104 ministers, teachers, and lay workers, representing 3,528 full members, 553 probationers, 2,752 Sunday School scholars, and 630 officers and teachers, together with church and parsonages valued at $73,673. The report of the ministers showed that there were added to the church by conversion during the year 99 full members and 247 probationers. There were also 390 children and adults baptised; $6,171 had been raised for building and improving church property; $2,130 had been paid over for the support of pastors and presiding elders. Ten new churches and parsonages were in course of erection; $327 had been collected during the year for the cause of mission, education, and the other benevolences of the church. This latter item showed an increase over the previous year of $124. The spiritual department also reported several conversions among the aboriginal population during the year. The revival idea was made prominent during the conference session, which clearly in-

dicated a larger increase for the next year. Numerically the Methodists are said to be the strongest in the Republic.

The educational work of the conference is represented by 30 schools, with 43 professors and teachers, and an enrollment of 1,238 pupils. Of these one is of college grade, one of preparatory grade, and three are industrial schools where some of the trades and agriculture are taught. I was present at the graduation of the first class from the Industrial School of the St. Paul river. It was composed of five young men, who received diplomas as skilled workmen. Garraway mission, in Maryland county, and the Industrial mission, in Sinoe county, are superintended by white missionaries, and operate exclusively among the natives. The former heads of the Barraka and Wissika missions until recently were also white. This latter school is located on the Cavalla district in the midst of a dense pagan population, 100 miles from the sea coast. The enrollment of native students of the four schools is 264.

The most important enrollment center, however, is the College of West Africa, located at Monrovia. It has always occupied a unique place in the history and development of the Republic. Its record is unsurpassed for actual accomplishment in the preparation of men and women for service in the State. In connection with the college is a mission press, which does admirable work. A newspaper organ, *Liberia and West Africa,* is published on the ground, and keeps the outside world informed as to the doings of the workmen. General Ferdinand C. Latrobe, many times mayor of Baltimore, Md., and the son of the late John H. Latrobe, Esq., one of the founders of the American Colonization Society, wrote me in receipt of a copy of *Liberia and West Africa,* paying the following tribute, which is weighty, coming from one of such wide experience:

"There is great hope for any country that can produce a paper of the character and workmanship of the one you sent me. The friends here would hardly believe that it was printed in Liberia."

Rev. Alexander P. Camphor, D. D., as president of the college, is the successor of an illustrious band of self-sacrificing men. With him is an able corps of teachers. He is himself well prepared for the work, having had an honorable record in the United States as a minister and educator.

The work of the church is divided between the Americo-Liberian and the native population. The former has had its attention from the start with unabated interest. It was always the hope that the latter would be reached, educated, and evangelized. It is fair to say that with the limited resources at their command they have accomplished as much as might be expected; but the extensive hinterlands of the Republic, except in spots, remain unreached, uninfluenced, and unevangelized. This will be clearly seen by a reference to the minutes for the last year. There are under the supervision of the conference 48 churches and 14 preaching stations. Thirty-five of these are directly among the native tribes, distributed as follows: 16 on the sea coast, 8 on the banks of the rivers not far from the sea coast, and 3 some distance in the interior. The missionaries who come from the United States are both white and colored. The work of the former is confined strictly to the natives, while that of the latter, with but one exception at present, is divided among the Americo-Liberians and the native population in those centers. The same is true of the educational institutions.

With the exception referred to above, they are located on the sea coast and in the heart of the Americo-Liberian population. If the heathen is to be reached the church must go after him and settle where he is. The native on the sea coast is not the best subject for missionary enterprise. A large institution located in the interior, in the heart of the heathen population, would do much to strengthen the work of the church. The church has everything to gain and nothing to lose by a change of policy in this direction. For instance, it would cost exceedingly less to maintain schools and churches in the interior than it does to maintain them on the sea coast among the civilized population, where everything is high and has to be bought, from a stick of wood to a pinch of salt. I did not find a single Methodist church five miles from the civilized centers in those sections through which I passed in the interior during my journeys through the territory of Grand Cape Mount and the counties of Grand Bassa and Montserrado. All through the Gorgee and Bopora sections, included in my travel, a circuit of about 300 miles, there was neither church nor school, denominational or secular, although the heathen are calling for both. That the thoughtful men of the

conference have begun to realize this is verified by the action of that body at the session to which I referred, in unanimously adopting a resolution offered by the president of the College of West Africa, advocating a change of location for the institution from the sea coast to the interior, directly among the pagans, for whose special benefit they have come.

Bishop Scott is pressing the principle of self-support with some results already, as have been indicated in the financial report submitted above. This is an element in the work among the Americo-Liberians which cannot be too strongly emphasized. Absolute dependence upon foreign support has paralyzed independent efforts. The Americo-Liberians, however, cannot at present do without some help, but they ought to be encouraged to do more for themselves and their heathen brethren in the nature of self-help and home missionary work. The work is not without elements of self-sacrifice on the part of the Liberians themselves. This is manifest in the sacrifices which they make to erect without any outside help the places of worship as well as the small salaries for which they consent to preach and teach. There are many who would gladly welcome the self-supporting basis, but the poverty of the masses arising from the lack of industrial enterprises for the employment of labor will enter largely into the solution of the problem, and will postpone for some time yet self-support on any decent scale.

At one time between the American Colonization Society, the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Episcopalians, and the Baptists more than a quarter of a million of dollars came annually into the Republic for the support of the churches, schools, and other institutions of the society. The Methodists themselves contributed to this amount $40,000 annually. Later the amount fell down to $2,500, and now up again to $12,500. The Episcopalians and the Methodists of the United States still retain the oversight of the Liberian churches through their resident bishops. The former contributes $47,000 annually to the support of the clergy and the missionary workers in educational institutes, etc. Many of their clergy receive as high as $800 annually for their support. This liberal provision of the Episcopalians compels them to give their entire time to the administration of the altar.

At present both the Presbyterians and the Baptists in Liberia receive no support from the denominations in the United States. While the former is still connected with the mother church, the latter has become an independent institution with no connection whatever. But it must be stated fairly that these bodies are handicapped by the total withdrawal of financial help. No forward movements among the aboriginal population are in progress for lack of means, and they are barely holding on to what has been accomplished in the years past. In conversation with the pastor of the leading Baptist church at Monrovia he expressed himself as follows:

"I am opposed to the spending of one dollar of foreign contributions for church work among the Americo-Liberians. They ought to support their own churches. But I pray God for a renewal of the liberality of Christians abroad for the spread of the gospel among our native population. The work among them is suffering from the withdrawal of foreign help."

The reduction in the appropriation of the Methodists from $40,000 to $12,500 so reduces the allowance to the ministers as to render entire confinement to the work of the pastorate difficult. In examining the minutes of the conference it will be seen that the highest salary paid by any self-supporting church in the denomination is $450. A majority of the pastors and workers receive very small salaries, some as low as $14 for the whole year's work. Such amounts are totally inadequate for the support of a man with a family when the high cost of living in Liberia is taken into consideration. The result is that the majority of the pastors are forced to seek other employments in order to supplement the amounts apportioned by the churches. It is common, therefore, to find many pastors, and even presiding elders, who divide their time between the church, the State, and secular pursuits. This practice is known to militate against the best interest of the work in general. The conference is powerless; it seems to restrict the pastors to the work of the pulpit in the face of the general complaint that the salaries are insufficient to meet the needs of the pastor and his family.

Bishop Scott's appeal for aid for advancement in native work and for the enlargement of industrial plants ought to be heeded. His intention to recapture Bopora, a promising center, ought to

receive aid and encouragement from the home church. This cause will suffer from retrenchment. If retrenchment is to come it ought to fall upon the civilized population, who is better able to stand it. The urgent need is industrial schools. One great school of this character at present would be worth more than several colleges. The management would find among the aborigines a basis upon which to start. He is already acquainted with cloth making and pottery, carving, blacksmithing, tannery, etc. He simply lacks design, intelligent direction, and a knowledge of modern methods. He needs teachers rather than preachers, in the popular sense. The church should send trained and educated men who are apt enough to master the language so as to render the interpreter unnecessary. No missionary should come who is unwilling to do this. The idea that anything will do for Africa will prove, if not already, an expensive experiment. If the missionaries have a knowledge of medicine all the better. If you can heal the body of a native man suffering from an African ulcer you are very apt to get his heart. He believes in the medicine man. There is a great field here for missionary work.

Number of churches	48
Number of preaching places	14
Number of schools	30
Number of professors and teachers	43
Number of parsonages	5
Number of enrollment	1,238

These are distributed as follows:

Americo-Liberians	579
Native	659
Full members	3,528
Probationers	553
Number of Sunday School scholars	2,752
Number of officers and teachers	630
Value of church property and parsonages	$73,673
Estimated native population	1,520,000
Estimated Americo-Liberian population	20,000

Tribal religion divided between Fetichism, Paganism, and Mohammedanism.

Protestant denominations operating among them: Methodists, Episcopalians, Protestant Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists,

African Methodists, Zion Methodists, Lutherans, and the Church of Christ.

Number of missionaries from the United States employed by the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church, 20.

These are divided as follows: 9 males, 11 females, 6 white, and 14 colored, with two bishops, one white and one colored.

Annual appropriation for the work from the Missionary Society in New York of the M. E. Church, $12,500.—*Liberia and West Africa, September,* 1906.

COMMERCE OF LIBERIA.

SIR HARRY JOHNSTON, G. C. M. G., K. C. B., D. SC., AND MR. I. F. BRAHAM.

The imports into Liberia comprise practically every sort and description of cotton goods, hardware, tobacco, silks, crockery, guns, gunpowder, rice, stock-fish, herrings, and salt. The natives are most conservative in their tastes, and there is great difficulty in finding a market for new goods. Certain articles such as brass kettles, cutlasses (machetes), and tobacco are now of the same pattern and description as they were when introduced by the Spaniards and the Portuguese in the fifteenth (?) century, and no inducement will tempt the natives to purchase any modern variation of these old patterns. As a matter of fact, this description of articles has become the currency of the interior tribes (who up to the present do not understand the value of a coinage), and from time immemorial have been employed in the purchase of their wives and cattle, and this may be taken to be the principal reason why a change is unappreciated. The value of wives varies in different districts, but an average may be struck, viz., 6 brass kettles, 15 kegs of powder, and 5 pieces of cloth. The value of a slave boy is 15 kegs of powder, and of a slave girl 10 kegs of powder, or 100 sticks of salt.

Salt and rice are *very largely* imported. Although the natives throughout the hinterland grow rice in large quantities, they do not cultivate nearly sufficient for their own consumption, and thousands of bags are imported annually. We may compute the amount of rice at 150,000 bags (700 tons per annum), and salt

in rather larger quantities. The import of salt, rice, and fish may be regarded as the greatest import trade of the country.

Another article of consumption imported in great quantities, especially on the Kru coast, is stock-fish from Norway. The Kru people, Grebos, and in fact all those tribes living between Grand Basa and Maryland are extremely fond of stock-fish, which has become one of their principal articles of diet. Fish, generally in the shape of herrings in barrels, is largely imported.

Gin and rum are imported in considerable quantities, but the liquor traffic, so much discussed, does not appear, from the writer's experience, to have in any way affected the natives of the interior, and on the whole there is very little drunkenness among the interior tribes. These strong waters are much used in compounding native medicines.

Cotton goods, such as blue baft, prints of various descriptions, romals, and white shirting have a large sale. Even in their choice of cotton goods the natives are very conservative, and a new pattern does not "catch on" very readily. Strangely enough, the Liberian natives have little fondness for gorgeous and brilliant colors and patterns, somber blue and white being their favorite colors. Another feature is that the cloth must be sold in pieces made up of 12 yards; smaller pieces, although correspondingly lower in price, are not easily disposed of.

The total value of the imports per annum into Liberia may be estimated at about £200,000.

The exports of Liberia at the time of writing consist of the following products:

Camwood (*Baphia nitida*).
Cacao (cocoa).
Calabar beans (*Physostigma venenosa*).
Cassava (manioc) (*Manihot utilissima*).
Coffee (*Coffee liberiensis*).
India rubber (Landolphia, Funtumia, Clitandra, etc.).
Ivory.
Vegetable ivory (nuts of Borassus palm).
Kafa or Kombo oil seeds (Sesamum or Pycnanthus).
Hides.
Kola nuts.
Palm kernels.

Palm oil (*Elias guineensis*).
Piassava fiber (*Raphia vinifera*).
Annatto seed (*Bixa orellana*).

Among other products of the country not included in any recent list of exports, but which, if they could be worked with industry, might well add to the stream of Liberian commerce, are rice, cotton, peppers of various sorts, the *Strophanthus drug*, timber from the African mahogany, and teak, copal gum, and pineapple fiber.

Reliable statistics relative to the exports are not easily obtainable, but their average annual value at the time of writing is about £200,000.

Coffee was once the principal article of export, but now takes a secondary rank. It is mainly exported from Monrovia and Cape Mount (Robertsport). It is grown extensively on the St. Paul's river by the Americo-Liberians. At one time Liberian coffee was greatly appreciated in the European markets, and for many years averaged the high price of £5 per cwt. The increasing importations from Brazil, Ceylon, and from other sources have had, however, a serious effect upon the value of Liberian coffee, which is now only worth 38s. to 44s. per cwt. The reason for this fall in the value of Liberian coffee is not only to be sought in the larger imports from other countries, but also in the fact that the Liberian planters are unscientific in their methods of preparation for market; the machinery employed is primitive, and, as a consequence, the coffee berries come into the market in a broken and imperfect condition. There is no doubt that proper treatment would have the effect of greatly enhancing the value of this product. It is a delicious coffee of full flavor and improves with age. The Liberian planters are gradually awakening to the fact that their old and primitive methods are retarding progress, and are beginning to attempt improvements.

About 1,500,000 pounds avoirdupois of coffee are annually exported from Liberia. This output is growing to some slight extent, but not in the proportion anticipated. The planters have become nervous by long depression and have to some extent lost faith.

Palm oil is a large export, mainly from the Basa and Kru coast. This substance is used in the manufacture of the best

kinds of soaps and candles and takes the place of tallow. It is extracted from the outer coating of the palm nut. The method of obtaining the oil is simple: The palm nuts are gathered and thrown together into a pit dug in the earth and allowed to remain until decay and fermentation set in; the outer coating is then squeezed by hand, and the oil is thus extracted. The inner nut is then thrown aside to be cracked for its yield of palm kernels.

Mr. John Gow gives the author the following description of palm-oil manufacture in the Kaka country (Dukwia river):

"The fruits are cut off the palm raceme and boiled in water. They are then put into a large mortar and pounded with a pestle until the fibrous covering of the kernel is separated from the latter. The kernels or nuts are then picked out and put apart. The orange-colored pericarp is put into a hollowed wooden scoop or trough, which is supported on crossed sticks at an angle of about 45 degrees. Hot stones are then mixed with the oil-producing pericarp, and as this mass becomes hardened the oil detaches itself from the fiber and trickles down into the pan. In some districts they do not trouble to put the hot stones among the oily coverings of the nut, but soak this oily covering in hot water and then boil the water that is drained off. As it boils they skim the oil off the top."

Liberian palm oil (again owing to careless treatment) is not the best quality on the market. There is too large a percentage of dirt and extraneous matter, but the ruling prices for this oil are good, and Liberian palm oil is now quoted at £24 10s. per ton.

Palm kernels are the inner kernel of the palm nut, the outer shell of which is cracked by hand; they were exported from Africa for the first time in 1850 by a Liberian. Liberia can claim, therefore, to have been the introducer of at least *one* product of great economic value. Very large quantities of kernels are exported. The present price per ton is £13 15s. Palm kernels are employed for the same purposes as palm oil. The oil expressed from the kernels is worth £27 a ton.

Piassava.—The history of the piassava industry in Liberia is somewhat extraordinary. Piassava is the fiber of the fronds of the *Raphia* palm (*R. viniferna*). Its use was discovered about 1889, and in 1890 it was first exported, the value at that time being from £60 to £70 per ton. It was easy to prepare, and the

Raphia palm, of which it is a product, was extremely plentiful. The natives rushed in, and the production in the course of a few years grew to enormous proportions, Liberia being for many years practically the sole country exporting this product. As the production grew the natives became careless (as is the case with most Liberian products), the merchants who handled this article gave it little attention—prices and profits being so good—and in course of time prices in the home markets fell. Other West African countries began to compete and gradually the price dwindled, the value decreasing rapidly until it descended to the low level of about £10, rising to £20 per ton, at which quotation it now stands. The difficulties of selecting the good from the bad piassava are great, enormous losses occur by shrinkage in weight, and the trade is practically at a stand still. Although a steady export goes on and profits are made, the risks are great, and merchants are less keen to embark in this uncertain trade. The piassava market it too speculative; for one shipment £15 may be obtained, and for the next, identical in quality, only £10.

Grand Basa was, and still is, the headquarters of the piassava export. Efforts are being made, with some slight success, to regulate this trade and to improve the methods of production, but the low and uncertain prices ruling (and which are likely to rule) will prevent the trade from increasing to its former proportions.

Coffee, rubber, palm oil, palm kernels, and piassava may be regarded as the staple exports from Liberia.

Camwood.—At one time, in the 'seventies and 'eighties, camwood was a most important article of export in Liberia (as with other parts of the west coast), and as much as £40 and £50 per ton were realized; but the discovery of aniline dyes had a disastrous effect, and now, although small quantities are still shipped, the price (£10 to £13) is too low to encourage a steady export. These remarks apply to annatto and other dye stuffs, all of which have been affected by the introduction of aniline.

Ivory is not largely exported, although occasionally a ton or so is shipped. The natives regard their stores of ivory as very precious, and there is little or no profit in the ivory trade. Most ivory finds its way through the hinterland to the French colonies, and very little to the seaboard. The development of the trans-

port system of the country, the opening of roads, and the settlement of native disputes will have a beneficial effect with regard to this as well as to other products of the country. The natives state there are two descriptions of elephants inhabiting the vast virgin forests, a smaller and a larger, the latter producing the smaller ivory. From observation this has not been proved, and the statement is to be doubted.

Ebony.—A species of *Diospyros* and *Dalbergia* are both present in the Liberian forests. It is not difficult to understand why no ebony is exported, since the present price is only about £6 a ton.

Cacao.—Owing to the bad outlook for the future of the coffee industry, many Liberian planters have started cocoa growing on their plantations. This industry is in the early stages of infancy, but bids fair to develop into useful proportions. Samples sent to England have touched high prices—47s. per cwt.

Cotton.—Experiments are being made by the Liberian planters. It is too early to discuss this product from the point of view of trade, but there is no doubt that the soil is well adapted to the growing of cotton. The interior natives grow cotton for their own consumption, from which they weave beautiful cloths. The cotton industry is increasing.

Calabar beans have only an uncertain sale and cannot be regarded as an article of export. They are plentiful, however, and if the home market demanded large exports could be made.

Kola Nuts.—Very few kola nuts are exported to Europe, although there is a comparatively large local trade, mostly in the hands of the Sierra Leoneans. As this valuable nerve stimulant (the basis of certain brands of cocoa and tonic wines) is likely to attain a greatly extended use in Europe and America, kola production in Liberia should receive attention.

Ginger.—The export of ginger varies considerably. It is largely planted by the Americo-Liberians, the soil being splendidly adapted to the purpose, but the home market for ginger is most irregular, and this has had the effect of reducing the amount planted and exported. In spite of all drawbacks, however, some considerable quantity of ginger is shipped. Present prices are about 24s. the cwt.

Sugar.—In the early days of Liberia sugar-cane was largely grown on the St. Paul's river, but the introduction of beet sugar

has had the same effect in Liberia as in other sugar growing countries, and none is now exported, although a small quantity is prepared for local consumption, and the molasses and syrup are sold locally. The cane grows freely and well, and with a better demand and higher prices a trade in this product could be resuscitated to advantage.

Tobacco.—Experiments are now being made by a Liberian recently arrived from America, but results so far have been negative.

Gum Copal (*Copaifera dinklagei*) exists in quantities in the forests, and the natives are beginning to gather it. It is an increasing industry, and little more can be said. The quality is about on a par with that exported from Sierra Leone, and the value reaches to £74 a ton.

Ivory Nuts have been exported in small quantities with negative results. These nuts—probably the fruit of a *Pandanus* or *Borassus*—are used in the manufacture of cheap buttons.

Ground Nuts (*Arachis* and *Voandzeia*) are grown in small quantities and are disposed of locally.

Rubber.—The industry in this product is increasing since the foundation of the Monrovian Rubber Company in 1894. In all probability rubber will become in time the principal article of export.

The present price of Liberian rubber is about 2s. 9d. per lb. The price during 1898, 1899, and the first half of 1900 remained very constant at an average of about 2s. 3d. per lb. During this time Para rubber rose from 3s. 9d. to 4s. 9d. per lb. The lowest price for Para rubber since 1880 has been 2s. 1d. in 1884; in 1891 it was 2s. 8d. per lb., and it steadily rose to 4s. 9d. per lb. in the beginning of 1900. During the first half of 1900 Para rubber fell rapidly, recovered somewhat, and again fell, until at the end of the year it was 4s. per lb. It is now about 5s. per lb. The average price for the last ten years has been about 3s. 5d. per lb. During the latter six months of 1900 Liberian rubber fell steadily to about 1s. 8d. per lb., 7¼d. having been the lowest price touched; 2s. 10d. was the highest reached (1905).

Liberian rubber is chiefly used, mixed with other kinds, in the manufacture of rubber for mechanical purposes. The quantity of rubber used in "mechanicals" is very large indeed, probably about equal to the total amount of Para imported.

In Liberia sixteen classes of rubber are known at present, probably attributable to as many species of rubber-producing trees and vines. The quality of the rubber varies very much according to the species. *Landolphia owariensis* and *Funtumia elastica* probably yield the best. The lianas of Landolphias, which produce so much of the rubber, grow up tall trees, and extend sometimes three or four hundred feet along their tops. The rope-like stems of these creepers are as much as nine inches in diameter, the slenderest probably being about three inches.

Rubber abounds not only where it has been seen by the officials of the company, but right through the vast forests of the interior. The method of treating the rubber at present is somewhat crude, but the quality, although it is not considered the best on the market, is very fair, and, barring a certain unpleasant odor, is equal to the average rubber exported from the west coast of Africa.

Hitherto rubber collecting in Liberia has been merely in its infancy, but the Liberian Rubber Corporation is making rapid strides toward opening up stations throughout the country with satisfactory results. Down to about 1898 no attempt was made by Europeans to trade for rubber or to collect it away from the coast ports. In that year, however, two agents of the Liberian Rubber Syndicate (which preceded the Monrovian Rubber Company) made some attempt to collect rubber in the Dukwia country, but the enterprise, though successful, was not persisted in. In 1903-'04 the journeys of Mr. Alexander Whyte revealed the extraordinary wealth of rubber-producing trees, shrubs, and lianas in the interior forests. Early in 1904 Mr. Harold Reynolds, on behalf of the Monrovian Rubber Company, opened the first permanent station in the interior, opposite Dobli Zulu island on the St. Paul's river, near Boporo. Prior negotiations had been entered into with the Gora and Boporo chiefs in the neighborhood by Mr. Braham, the general manager of the company, with the assistance and support of the Liberian Government. Similar measures brought about the foundation of other stations at distances of from twenty-two to one hundred miles from the coast at Mount Barclay, Kakatown (Dukwia), Sikombe, Putu, and Woffoke (Maryland). These stations were occupied by foresters (mostly from the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens) in the

service of the rubber company. In 1905 Mr. D. Sim, one of these foresters, discovered the *Funtumia elastia* (the rubber tree of Lagos), existing in the vast Nidi forest in the Sapo country behind Putu. The natives soon realized the public importance of this asset, and are taking great pains to see that the trees are not injured by excessive tapping. Since the end of 1905 a number more rubber-collecting stations in the interior have been opened by Europeans and Negro foresters. The first of this new series was at Kaitikpo's town, on the Farmington river.

Rubber collecting by the natives is carried on in two ways, either as an individual enterprise, the native going out into the forest and collecting rubber, which he afterwards brings for sale to the company's stations or to the traders on the coast, or by direct salaried employment at the hands of the company.

The best rubber-collecting season is in August and from October to March, during the (more or less) dry season; but this is because at that time of year the natives have less work to do on their farms, and, of course, the slackening in the rainfall makes outdoor work in the forests more agreeable.

When rubber collecting is undertaken by the natives on their own initiative their procedure is usually as follows: Their wives prepare about three weeks' food, which they carry in the baskets (kinja), borne on the back and forehead of the porter. They then settle down in the forest in the middle of the rubber vines and proceed to collect the latex of the vines or trees by tapping the bark and allowing the "milk" to run into little receptacles (broken bottles, large snail shells, gourds, tin cans, etc.), or else by cutting up the smaller lianas into segments, from each end of which the latex streams off into basins or other receptacles.

The supplies of latex ("milk") are either collected toward evening or in the early morning, and are all mixed together in brass kettles or iron pots. The rubber is thence obtained by promoting coagulation. This is effected by boiling the latex or precipitating the caoutchouc by the admixture of acid reagents, such as lime-juice or the juice or tannin of wild fruits or bark-infusion. The better educated natives then put their strips or balls of rubber aside to dry by hanging them over the rafters of huts in the smoke from the hearth. The stupider or the more dishonest immerse their rubber in flowing streams, believing that by

so doing they cleanse it from impurities, and yet cause it to absorb moisture and so increase its weight fraudulently. As a matter of fact, the caoutchouc does not absorb the water, but immersion prevents it from exuding its inherent moisture, so that it is brought to the trader in a damp and "mucky" condition.

The ordinary pay of the native laborer is about 9d. to 1s. per day. By working systematically one man can readily collect up to 3 or 4 lbs. of rubber per day, for which he would receive about 1s. per lb. The natives prefer collecting rubber to growing or collecting any other kind of product, as when brought to the coast it realizes £2 10s. per load, as against about 4s. for the same weight of palm kernels, 10s. for palm oil, and 14s. for coffee. They will rarely carry produce other than rubber more than a two days' journey.

The whole of the rubber trade and collecting of rubber in Liberia is under the supervision of the Liberian Rubber Corporation, which is for all practical purposes the Forestry Board of the Liberian Government, for whom it collects the royalties or export duties on the rubber (an approximate, 8 cents (4d.) per lb.). The Liberian Rubber Corporation makes arrangements with and subsidizes native chiefs for the carrying out of its regulations (which have the force of by-laws) for the preservation of the forests and the replanting of rubber vines and trees. It spreads instruction among the natives as to the proper methods of collecting rubber, and by its stations and sub-stations in the interior endeavors to provide *foci* for the trade. Any person may trade in or collect rubber in Liberia by obtaining a license from the company and agreeing to pay the royalties due and observe the regulations in force. The sums derived from the rubber royalties are pledged by the Liberian Government to the service of its public debt.

Any quantity of valuable timber—African mahogany (Khaya), African teak (Oldfieldia), besides other trees—is present in the forests. There are many undescribed nuts and seeds yielding fine oils; the bark of the mangrove and of certain acacias is valuable for tanning. Besides articles of export there are local wants to be supplied. Liberia ought, so far as climate and soil are concerned, to grow all the rice her indigenous and American population requires, and yet become a rice-exporting country, instead

of which she imports rice by the hundred-thousand-pounds' worth. Her coasts are well provided with fish. She should set up her own fish-curing establishments on the seashore and send dried fish to the people of the interior instead of importing it from Norway.

The fruit produced in the coast regions consists of cocoanuts, pineapples, oranges, limes, mangoes, pawpaws, Avocado pears, "sour sop," bananas, and plantains.

Cattle thrive well in Liberia; they ought to be bred and fattened for the West African market; likewise sheep, goats, fowls, and ducks. Geese will not breed in this climate, and turkeys find it too wet.

The mineral wealth of Liberia is still an unknown quantity.

To quicken the stagnant commerce of this land several things are necessary: *imprimis,* a far greater devotion to agriculture on the part of the Negro population; practical, tropical agriculture should be taught at all the colleges and schools; *secundo,* more coin, instead of paper money, should circulate; *tertio,* roads must be made into the interior and European traders be allowed to settle at convenient points along those roads.

Present means of transport are most defective and primitive. In the coast districts there are short stretches of roads made by the Liberian Government, with a few wooden bridges. On these rudely made ox-carts ply between the plantations and the villages. Beyond the coast strip of ten to twenty miles all roads narrow into a footpath, which becomes often a mere tunnel through dense vegetation sufficiently high for foot passengers with loads on head or back to pass through. In the wet season these paths become canals, along which Europeans and natives can only progress by wading, sometimes up to the armpits. In the far interior (*i. e.*, over seventy miles from the coast) another inconvenience to caravans arises occasionally from the simultaneous occupation of the roads by herds of elephants, who are very fierce, and rush at the human trespassers (for many of these paths appear to have been elephant tracks in origin) with angry screams and uplifted trunks. Needless to say, the native porters, if not the European master, fling down their load and scatter into the dense forest.

But when the region quite beyond coast influence is reached at, say, one hundred miles inland, these narrow paths often broaden out into fine highways, constructed and kept clear of vegetable growth by the industrious warlike (and often cannibalistic) natives of the far interior.

The native porters prefer to carry their loads in the *kinja*, a wicker "pottle" or long hamper slung on the back, but European boxes are carried on the head. In many districts the women readily proffer themselves as porters and carry all loads poised on the head.

On the rivers in their navigable stretches dug-out canoes are much used for transport and travel. Horses and donkeys are employed as pack animals by the Mandingo beyond the forest zone, but never within the region of dense vegetation.

The Americo-Liberians are keen traders, fonder, indeed, of trade than agriculture. Most of them, however, carry on their business as the agents or employees of European firms. Mr. S. Harmon, of Grand Basá, is an important trader. Attia, a Moorish Jew, came to this country a long while ago, and, on the strength of his African nationality, was able to enjoy all the privileges of a Liberian citizen. He built up a big trading business, but since his death the firm seems to have left Liberia. The most powerful trading house is that of Woermann, with agencies in every port of entry; then follow the Liberian Development Chartered and Rubber Companies (British), the German firms Wiechers and Helm, J. West, etc., the Dutch East African Company, Messrs. Woodin (British), etc., etc.

The total value of British trade with Liberia in 1904 was £112,779 (*imports* from United Kingdom, £50,069; *exports* to United Kingdom, £62,710); total trade with British Empire, including about £20,000 with Sierra Leone and Gold Coast, £132,000.

The value of Liberian trade with Germany during the same period (1904) was £105,000; with Holland (about) £70,000, and with other countries (United States, France, Spain, and Belgium) about £100,000.

A list of custom duties in force is appended:

The Regular Imposts or Customs on Goods, Wares, or Merchandise Brought into this Republic are as Follows, as per Tariff as Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia. All Import Duties Payable in Gold.

SPECIFIC.

Dried fish, per 100 lbs	$1.00
Pickled fish, per barrel	1.00
Beef, per barrel	1.25
Beef tongues, per barrel	2.00
Pigs' feet and heads, per barrel	1.00
Bacon, per lb	.01
Ham, per lb	.02
Pickled sausages, per lb	.03
Sugar (refined), per lb	.06
Fancy biscuits, per lb	.02
Butter, per lb	.04
Lard, per lb	.06
Candy confectionery, per lb	.05
Salt, per 100 lbs	.05
Tea, per lb	.10
Rice, per 112 lbs	.25
Common soap, per lb	.02
Fancy toilet soap, per lb	.06
Starch, per lb	.06
Steel, per lb	.02
Brass kettles, per lb	.06
Cutlasses, per doz	.25
Gunpowder, per lb	.08
Kerosene, per gallon	.04
Tobacco, leaf, per lb	.08
Percussion guns, each	2.50
Flint lock guns, each	2.50
Ovens and spiders, per lb	.01
Manufactured tobacco, per lb	.25
Cigars, each	.01
Cigarettes	ad valorem.
Lumber, per foot	00½
Trade plates (not in sets), per doz	.12
Basins not exceeding 12 inch, per doz	.12
Basins exceeding 12 inch, per doz	.25
Brandy, Old Tom gin, Jamaica rum, Scotch or Irish whisky, and all other fine qualities of alcoholic liquors, per gallon	2.00
Common rum or gin, per gallon	75

Wine, champagne, cordial, and all other liqueurs or sweet waters, per gallon	2.00
Beer, ale, stout, porter, wine, per gallon	.50
Empty demijohns, each	1.00

AD VALOREM.

Upon all oth goods not enumerated in the foregoing there shall be levied and collected a duty of 12½ per cent. *ad valorem*, transient traders not excepted.

FREE GOODS.

Seine, rye, thread, agricultural implements, and machinery of all kinds (bill-hooks and cutlasses excepted), tools, sewing-machines, palm kernel, and coffee-bags, shooks, hoop-iron, rivets, tenter-hooks, musical instruments, books for use of missions and schools in cases of direct consignment from abroad.

EXPORT TARIFF.

Export duties are payable in gold and currency.

Palm oil, per gallon	$0.01
Palm kernels, per bushel	.02
Camwood, per ton	3.50
Rubber and gutta-percha, per lb	.06 to .08
Ivory, per lb	.05
Piassava, per lb	.005 (half cent).

—*Liberia. Sir Harry Johnston, G. C. M. G., K. C. B.*

MR. BONAPARTE'S SPEECH TO THE NEGRO.

WASHINGTON, *July* 31, 1906.—Secretary of the Navy of the United States, Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte, in a speech at Convention Hall this afternoon, before the Negro Young People's Christian and Educational Congress, told the Negroes of America that they must take care of themselves, and must not attempt to get rid of the white race in any of the communities in which they reside.

His speech, which is considered of great significance in official and political circles, follows:

My friends, in the little time I shall trespass upon your attention today I propose to speak on a topic which has long been

interesting to me, and which can hardly fail to have some measure of interest for you also. I refer to the probable future of the Negro race in the United States. What part in American civilization will be played by you, or, if not by you, by your children and descendants? This question is no less difficult than interesting. I do not pretend to be a prophet as to its answer, or, indeed, as to anything, and I doubt very much whether anybody can now give much more than a crude conjecture about what the fates have in store for you and for the country through you. A man who speaks with assurance about such matters is probably not worth listening to; the very fact that he thinks he knows all about it is pretty good proof that he knows nothing or next to nothing. I shall, therefore, today make no attempt at prediction, but only call your attention to two features of your situation as a people, which, to my mind, afford at once thought and ground for a reasonable hope as to what is to be.

The first of these is the undoubted fact that the Negro race is the only one which has ever been able to live with white people, both races increasing and prospering on a large scale. The common brown rat, generally called the Norway rat, has been introduced into nearly all civilized countries through its custom of inhabiting the holds of ships, and wherever it has been so introduced it invariably supplants and destroys the native rat of the country. Naturalists of the Darwinian school say that this is because the Norway rat has been for so many generations exposed to the hostility of civilized man that it has grown remarkably intelligent. The stupid rats get caught in traps or by cats and dogs or ferrets while they are yet young, and their more sagacious brethren, who are too knowing to be caught, are those that grow to maturity and propagate the species.

This may be a somewhat fanciful explanation, but there is no doubt that the Norway rat is more than a match for any other species, and that it sooner or later exterminates all other rats when it once gets a foothold in any new district. Now the white man is like the Norway rat. Somehow—just why is a difficult problem—he has got an immense start on all other kinds of men, and wherever he gets fairly in he crowds the others out. There are, indeed, certain climates in which the white man cannot live or, at least, cannot retain his qualities. In these he may be a

conqueror or ruler, but not an inhabitant, or if he becomes an inhabitant it is at the cost of degenerating both physically and morally.

Thus many descendants of European colonists in certain parts of the New World, even when they are of unmixed blood, are white men only in name and color; are they indistinguishable both in character and habits from Indians or half-castes among whom they live? On the other hand, while white men in India may retain their vigor, both of body and of mind, they cannot rear their children in India. A child of European parents born there must be sent to another climate from about its fifth to about its fifteenth year. In such a country the white man cannot be at home.

But wherever, as in the temperate and cold regions of America, South Africa, Australia, and the islands of the South Sea, he can make himself and has made himself at home, his presence has been fatal to all other races, except that to which you belong; Indians and Australians and Polynesians have died off before him, but the black race has not. On the contrary, I think it is pretty well established that, although black men can live in some climates in which white men cannot, there is no climate in which white men can live in which black men cannot, and by "live" I mean live without loss of health and vigor.

There is no doubt that the black people of the United States are stronger and better looking and more healthy, besides being vastly more enlightened, than the present people of the west coast of Africa; transplanting the race to this continent has strengthened instead of weakened it, and I see no reason to think that any of its good qualities are lost in a moderately cold climate, such as that of New England or Canada.

Now, this peculiarity constitutes an enormous advantage. The greatest difficulty about enlightening backward races is the same that was found in teaching the horse to live on shavings; just when he had learned this useful habit he died of starvation. So the South Sea Islanders have, in one sense, taken very kindly to civilization, but just when we can fairly call them civilized we find that there are no South Sea Islanders left, or so few that they are hardly worth the trouble of civilizing. An eminent French statesman when asked what he had done during the

Reign of Terror answered: "I kept alive." He thought, and with reason, it was some credit in those days to have kept his head on his shoulders. The Negro race has performed the same feat, and it is no small matter that it has.

The other good thing to which I would direct your attention this evening is that you can't get rid of the white people. You can neither get away from them nor drive them away from you. In certain Negro communities there are laws forbidding any white man to own real estate or acquire political rights, and even where there are no such laws the deadly climate would probably have answered the same purpose. But in such countries the outlook is decidedly unpromising; it has been questioned whether they are moving forward at all. Some competent and unprejudiced observers see, or think they see, a tendency in these communities to relapse into barbarism, although it should be said in fairness that certain current impressions on this subject are due in large part to observers neither unprejudiced nor competent. Moreover, in some islands of the neighboring West Indies, where public order is strictly maintained by a strong and enlightened government, but where the white population has almost wholly emigrated or died out, the result has been unsatisfactory, although in a less degree. The colored population of these islands is said to be growing in numbers; there is little want or suffering there, and crimes of violence are rare. But the standard of material comfort is low and the habits and domestic relations of the people are irregular. This is not so bad a state of things as might be imagined, but it can hardly be called a good one.

Nor is there much difficulty as to the cause of all this. It is an old saying that "all sorts of people are needed to make up a world." To cut black people off from white people, whether by law or by natural causes, cuts them off at the same time from the only real source of improvement to themselves. I have spoken of the ingenious theory of scientific men as to why the common rat gets ahead of all others. His wits have been sharpened by having to elude all sorts of devices contrived for his destruction, and so, in the course of many generations, he has become a superior animal.

I expect the same causes to promote a similar result in you. You cannot afford to be lazy and ignorant and vicious, for all

around you, pressing you on every side, is a race with which you have to compete whether you wish to or not, and which it will tax all your energies to struggle against. There is no room in America for people who cannot take care of themselves.

I am one of those who feel strongly the repeated injustice and frequent perfidy which marked our treatment of the Indians, but, after all has been said, that Indians would not or could not—at all events did not—learn how to work in competition with white men, and they have been first pushed to the wall and then crushed against it. You must either share their fate or profit by their example. You cannot, in this country, "rest and be thankful," for if you try to do this you will soon have nothing to be thankful for. The idle and sensual and benighted are never really free, and America now is a country only for freemen.—*The African Agricultural World.*

WHAT A DISTINGUISHED SOUTHERNER THINKS OF "THE NEGRO OF TODAY."

Joel Chandler Harris, in the *Saturday Evening Post,* in a very interesting way writes from his point of view concerning the prospects and discouragements of his colored neighbors in the South. He shows how many snap judgments are passed along for certainties, and how often impressions are not facts. We quote some of his opinions:

"One thing is certain; when we come to form our conclusions and make up our judgment on the testimony of little things, we make a confession of prejudice and intolerance, and we find it impossible to take a broad and catholic view of the whole question, whatever it may be. We cannot fairly judge a race, or a country, or a religious institution, or a social organization, or society itself—nay, not even the Republic in which we take pride—unless we measure it by the standards set up by the men who are its best representatives. Unless we judge every human institution by its best products, instead of its worst, we shall find ourselves far from the truth; and this being so, who are we that we shall judge the products of the Almighty by their worst instead of their best results? * * *

"I believe that, at bottom, a majority of the American people are at one with respect to the Negro and his future, and the reason I have for making the statement is a sound one, namely, that a large majority of the people of this country are blessed with common sense in a larger measure than those of any other country on the globe. This innate common sense has brushed away so many difficulties, and solved so many problems, and carried the country safely through so many crises, and has come to the front in so many emergencies, that it may confidently be depended on in the future. * * *

"Nevertheless, there are many Southern people who steadily refuse to believe that the Negro has any wholesome future before him, and some of them even write communications to the papers in order to demonstrate the shiftless characteristics of the race; and there are men of the highest character and intelligence who claim that the two races can never live under the same government and in the same communities without inviting a race war on the one hand or amalgamation on the other, and that one or the other of these contingencies can only be averted by deportation to some country or territory where the Negro can have everything his own way. Moreover, there are to be found individual instances where the assertion is made that the Negro is going backward instead of forward; but individual instances of this kind are worth no more than the individuals themselves. In such cases you cannot argue from the particular to the general without doing wholesale injustice, for the facts are all the other way. * * *

"The Negro is of a different race, it is true, and his mind may fail to respond to the different processes of civilization and enlightenment; but this remains to be seen. It has not failed to respond thus far. He seems to be getting along remarkably well, considering all the circumstances by which he has been surrounded. He is acquiring property quite rapidly, and in our modern civilization this faculty is regarded, whether rightly or not, as the highest possible test of progress.

"The Negro is also acquiring an education, slowly, as a matter of course, but surely; and by so much as the minds of the present generation are prepared and equipped, by just so much will the minds of the generation to come be prepared to assimilate knowledge.

"We are placed in a position of expecting a race but a few years from the inevitable ignorance imposed upon it by the conditions of slavery to make the most remarkable progress that the world has ever heard of; and when we discover that in the nature of things this is impossible we shake our heads sadly, and are ready to lose heart and hope. * * * I do not ask any one to share my hopefulness with respect to the Negro, nor is it necessary that the views I am putting forth should be accepted. * * *

"The reason that I can afford to be hopeful in the matter lies in the fact that I am familiar with the history of a county in middle Georgia, where the Negroes have a majority of the population. In that county lynching is unknown because the particular crime that incites to lynching is unknown. Such a crime has never been committed in the county, and I mention the fact with considerable pride, for the reason that it is the county of my birth. It may be thought that this is a descent to the particular, but the point I desire to make is that the overwhelming majority of the Negroes in all parts of the South, especially in the agricultural regions, are leading sober and industrious lives.

"A temperate race is bound to be industrious, and the Negroes are temperate, as compared with the whites. I am speaking, of course, of the Negroes on the farms, but even in the towns the majority of them are sober and industrious. The idle and criminal classes among them make a great show in the police court records, but right here in Atlanta the respectable and decent Negroes far outnumber those who are on the lists of the police as old or new offenders.

"I am bound to conclude from what I see all about me, and from what I know of the race elsewhere, that the Negro, notwithstanding the late start he has made in civilization and enlightenment, is capable of making himself a useful member in the communities in which he lives and moves, and that he is becoming more and more desirous of conforming to all the laws that have been enacted for the protection of society."—*The American Missionary.*

BISHOP SCOTT INTERVIEWED.

Bishop, will you be kind enough to tell our readers something of Liberia and her people?

He replied: Liberia, as you know, is a Republic. Its Government is modeled somewhat after the Government of the United States, having a President elected to serve two years, a Legislature or Congress, and a Supreme Court. The Chief Justice has two associates on the Supreme Bench. The country has a coast line of about 300 miles and five principal ports of entry, which, named in order, beginning with the farthest north, are Robertsport, Monrovia, Buchanan, Greenville, and Harper. These are the correct names of the places, though the names of the counties in which they are situated are sometimes given rather than the ports.

The population of Liberia is made up of Americo-Liberians and civilized and uncivilized natives. The entire civilized population is put down at 25,000, more or less, and the uncivilized at about 1,500,000.

Are the uncivilized natives wild and savage?

Yes, they are to an extent wild. They live back in the woods in their huts, which make up the towns or half-towns. The towns sometimes contain scores of these huts and thousands of people. The half-towns, as the name indicates, are much smaller. Since they are not civilized, it may be all right to say they are savage, though as a rule when they have no grievance against you and are not at war with some other tribe they are not likely to harm you. To the contrary, they are quite hospitable to the stranger, but, I think, always watchful till they learn to trust you. Those to whom I refer as civilized have either been reared as servants in some Americo-Liberian home or have been Christianized and trained in some mission home or school. This class makes for the most part good, useful citizens, and many of them are among the leading mechanics and artisans not alone in Liberia, but along the entire West Coast.

The Kroo people, who are the seafaring natives, with a few other tribes, live along the coast, and as the result of their contact with civilization, either on shore or on the steamer, wear

more clothing than do those who live back in the country. In this particular, and one or two others, their contact with civilization is helpful to them, but there are other respects in which it is injurious.

What missionary organizations are at work among the heathen of Liberia besides that of our own church, Bishop?

Besides our own Church Missionary Society there is the Episcopal Church, the Lutherans, and here and there may be found an independent mission conducted by some individual who is supported by contributions from America. The American Methodist Episcopal Church has a number of societies in the Republic, but as far as I know they are confined to the Americo-Liberian people.

Will you tell us what is being done for the education of the people in general?

The Republic maintains a chartered institution known as Liberia College, and in addition has a system of public schools which is especially helpful to the Americo-Liberians and the native children who live in their homes.

The Episcopalians have an institution of higher grade, known as Cuttington Institute, an orphanage and a number of primary schools besides.

Our own missionary society has a chartered institution known as the College of West Africa, an academy, and a number of primary schools, which are scattered about in different parts of the Republic. There is no doubt that much good is being done by these influences, not only for the elevation of the uncivilized natives, but for the perpetuation of the life of the Government.

Well, Bishop, we understand that it was formerly very difficult to get possession of the native boys and girls for your mission schools; does that difficulty still exist?

Yes; there is still some difficulty, but not nearly as much as there once was. In fact, it is very easy to secure the boys, but not so the girls. The latter are in demand for wives, and have a market value, no matter how young. Hence you can understand that parents are not nearly as ready to give you a girl as a boy. Still we find them here and there who will let the mission have their girls to teach them "book palaver" and "God way." In addition we have some who attend school during the day and return

to their homes in the heathen towns at night. But the best results are never obtained in this way. It is to the advantage of the child, and the mission as well, to have him in the mission home. In the towns they are constantly witnesses of those heathen rites and orgies which seem to neutralize everything the missionaries are able to do for them.

But how do you manage to support them, even after you get them into the mission?

We support them, said the Bishop, through the special gifts of persons here at home who are interested in the salvation of Africa. Our workers calculate that $25 will feed and clothe a native child right through the year. This, of course, means the simplest fare and the plainest clothing possible—blue denim for the boys and gingham for the girls. Many persons pay the $25 and have us secure a boy or girl, as they may prefer, and name him or her for them or some member of the family. Then, too, Sunday Schools, Epworth League Chapters, churches, and other organizations take scholarships; sometimes a single class in a Sunday School will do so, and at other times a party of young ladies or young men organize just for the purpose and support a child.

Do you need any such scholarship now?

Yes, indeed, I do, and will be extremely grateful to any who will help. A hundred scholarships of the kind would mean much to our work, both as to its enlargement and development. I should be glad to hear from any who may desire to assist us. My address is Nashville, Tenn.

Have you accomplished anything at the District Conferences you have attended?

Why, bless you, I am surprised and delighted. The interest of the people in the salvation of Africa is constantly increasing. I wish I had the time and strength to attend all the conferences this summer and fall. The brethren urge me to come, and I propose to visit a few more, if possible, but I have a number of engagements at the North that I must leave for at once.

You will please allow me to say, also, that I think the New Orleans mass meeting, conducted by the preachers' meeting, was one of the most significant I have attended. I saw nothing

like it during the entire time I lived in that city, and I desire to thank you for the splendid write-up of the occasion published in the *Southwestern* the week following.—*Liberian and West Africa.*

REVIEW OF THE WORLD'S COMMERCE—LIBERIA, 1905.

It is a matter of regret that the only independent African country governed and exploited by native Africans should show the least trade progress of all the countries of Africa which have trade relations with foreign countries. In endeavoring to account for the unprogressiveness of Liberia, a country rich in possibilities, the British consul at Monrovia reports as follows to his government the chief contributory causes of present conditions:

None but Liberian subjects can hold land, and foreigners are prohibited from trading in the interior or anywhere but at the official ports of entry. It will be readily understood that no firm would be justified in investing large capital in a country where it cannot obtain freehold of its stores and warehouses; for this reason, also, no banks are established in Liberia. Another deterrent to the development of the country is the constant intertribal warfare in the interior.

Further on in his report the British consul says that while Monrovia is served by seven lines of European steamships, American goods come to Liberia via Liverpool and Hamburg. These goods consist of flour, pork, petroleum, tobacco, and lumber, and more would probably be sent if there was direct communication.

The greater portion of the import trade is in the hands of German firms, who import in their own line of steamers.

Our consul general at Monrovia, Mr. Lyon, who is continually appealing to our exporters and importers for direct trade with the United States through an American steamship line, gives the following statistics relative to the foreign trade of Liberia for the six months ended June 30, 1905: Imports, $322,400; exports, $296,500. Assuming that the trade for the last six

months of the year was equal to the trade for the first six months, that for the calendar year may be estimated as follows:

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
Germany	$317,800	$409,400	$727,200
United Kingdom	282,400	176,400	458,800
Netherlands	25,600	2,200	27,800
United States	7,200	4,000	11,200
All other countries	11,800	.....	11,800
Total	$644,800	$592,000	$1,236,800

According to our Bureau of Statistics our exports during the calendar year 1905, given in the table, amounted to $40,247. The paragraph in the British consular report showing that American products are received in Liberia via Liverpool and Hamburg explains this discrepancy. By the time those $40,000 worth of American products reached Liberia via Liverpool and Hamburg they must have increased in value to at least $65,000.

In commercial relations for 1880—twenty-six years ago—the trade of Liberia was given as follows: Imports, $600,000, and exports the same amount. The imports from the United States in 1880 amounted to $178,000, and the exports to the United States to $86,000. It will thus be seen that the general trade of the Republic is just where it was in 1880, while our trade therewith has dwindled to almost nothing.

Our only import from Liberia is coffee, not more than $2,000, and considering the good quality of the product and the vast consumption of coffee in the United States, the wonder is that we do not import larger quantities thereof.—*Washington: Government Printing Office,* 1906.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA COMMUNICATED TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I am glad to be able to state that nothing of national interest of an alarming or disturbing nature has occurred since your adjournment in the month of February last.

Among prominent citizens who have died since your adjournment I regret to have to mention the Hon. A. D. Williams, of Montserrado county, whose father, under the colonial administration, acted for some time as Governor of Liberia. The deceased citizen served successively as a member of the House of Representatives, as a Senator, and as Secretary of War under the administration of President Cheeseman. He was one of the Liberian commissioners for the delimitation of the Anglo-Liberian frontier. He was thrice nominated for the Presidency. He was also a popular military officer, commanding the first regiment for several years.

Mr. Allen Peel, of Greenville, Sinoe county, recently deceased, had the distinction of being the second male child of Americo-Liberian parentage born in that county. He was at the time of his death connected with the Post-Office Department.

Judge William Bowen was a prominent, much valued, and respected citizen of Maryland county, which for many years he assisted to represent in the National Legislature. He had presided for a long period before his death over the monthly and probate court of that county. All these citizens were men of ripe experience. Their removal from among us is to be regretted.

Some of the measures recommended and partially considered at recent sessions were the acts for the better government of Americo-Liberian townships, the suggestion for the demonetization of the Liberian paper currency, an amended divorce act, an amendment to the law forbidding private warfare, and a suggestion that the Postmaster General be given power to establish deposit and postal savings banks. It is to be hoped that these measures will have your patient and final consideration at the present session.

Our relations with foreign powers continue on an agreeable and friendly footing.

The report of the Attorney General will draw your attention to the necessity of a change of the law in relation to judges when compelled for reasons of health to vacate their posts for a short time. There seems to be no adequate provisions for such cases. If a session is fixed by law to be held during their absence, the meeting of the court either has to be postponed from day to day, at great expense, to await the arrival of another judge who may not attend, or the court cannot convene at all, which is often a source of public inconvenience and individual loss. It is to be observed, too, that the absence of judges from their posts dislocates the whole judicial machinery of the county, for some cases cannot be commenced at all without an order from the judge, and this authority is required at some stages in other cases.

A simple and effective remedy would be to enact that in the absence of judges, either of the probate or superior courts, the eldest member of the bar, not holding an incompatible official appointment, shall act as judge *pro tem.* His remuneration, say $2.00 per day, might be contributed in equal parts by the holder of the office and the State.

A suggestion which I cordially endorse is to the effect that parties to action may, if they like, give testimony. They will, of course, be subject to cross-examination. This judicial practice is now allowed in most English-speaking countries, and, on the whole, its advantages outweigh its disadvantages.

Attention is also called to the first section of the resolution approved January 30, 1905, entitled "Joint resolution amendatory to the act establishing the judiciary and fixing the powers common to the several courts," which directs that the time allowed for the payment of debt and damages in all courts of record shall be at the rate of $30.00 per month, with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. from the date of rendition of judgment; payment to be secured by bond. If this provision had been made to apply to the courts of monthly sessions *alone*, with their limited jurisdiction in debts or damages not exceeding $300.00, there would be very little to say against it. It is, however, unworkable in the superior courts, where debts or damages run-

ning into thousands of dollars are sought to be recovered. Let us say that an action is brought for debt of $5,000 and that plaintiff recovers. At $30.00 per month it will take fourteen years to discharge the obligation, and it is conceivable that the defendant may be a man of considerable property, quite able to pay up at once, or at least in a year or two, under pressure.

This act ought not to have had Executive sanction, for its provisions affect very injuriously the relations of debtor and creditor, and it is designed to benefit the latter. It is true that a bond is required, but no sane person will expose valuable property or interests to hazard over so long a period of time.

By striking out the word "all" and inserting the word "said" before the word "court," the act would cease to afford reasonable ground of complaint.

It was not until the year 1883 that the Department of Public Justice, of which the Attorney General is the executive head, was organized by act of Legislature, although, of course, the Attorney General had before that time certain duties assigned him by law. The act of 1883 is found defective, in that it ordains that the Attorney General shall give opinions and advice to officers of Government, but does not say whether said officers shall be guided by the opinions so given, in accordance with the provisions of the statute organizing the department of which he is chief. The Government and the Attorney General are often exposed to the annoyance of seeing his opinions and advice disregarded or neglected by subordinate officials. One of the principal duties of the Attorney General in countries with democratic institutions is to give his advice and opinion upon questions of law and judicial or administrative procedure, when required by the President or head of any executive branch. The Attorney General has invariably been appointed from among the ablest lawyers of the Republic. His opinion should, and generally does, carry great weight. It ought to be binding on all officials as law until it is set aside by the solemn adjudication of some superior court. An amendment of the law in the sense indicated above is desired.

The Hon. J. H. Green, judge of the court of quarter sessions, Grand Bassa county, has been for good reasons suspended. The papers in his case will be duly laid before you.

The difficulties which fiscal officers have hitherto had in the administration and collection of the customs, owing to an imperfect knowldge of the laws relating to that branch of the revenue, will be removed by the publication of a customs code now in the press. This code, which was fully examined and approved by the Attorney General, was compiled by Counselor T. McCants Stewart, late of the New York bar, now a member of the bar of Montserrado county. It includes all the laws, important Treasury orders, and regulations in force that have been published or issued in connection with the customs for the past fifty years. Your approval of said code, a copy of which will be laid before you, is requested. It is not intended, of course, to affect any improvements which may hereinafter be found necessary. A brief code embodying the law as it affects justices of the peace is also being prepared to meet the needs of these officers in the discharge of their functions. It will in due course be laid before you for consideration and approval.

The naturalization law found in the act of 1877-'78 is in some particulars affected by the joint resolution regulating immigrant expenses found on page 52 of the acts of last session. The first and second sections of the act of 1877 read as follows:

SEC. 1. "That after the first day of January, A. D. 1878, aliens may be admitted to become citizens of the Republic of Liberia in the following manner and not otherwise. The applicant for citizenship shall declare on oath before any one of the clerks of the court of quarter sessions and common pleas of the respective counties of this Republic, one year, at least, prior to his admission, that it is *bona fide* his intention to become a citizen of the Republic of Liberia, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which the alien may be at the time a citizen or subject, and for which services the applicant shall pay to the clerk fifty cents."

SEC. 2. "The alien shall, at the time of his application to be admitted, declare on oath, before one of the clerks of court as above specified, that he will support the Constitution of the Republic, and that he absolutely and entirely renounces and abjures all fealty to every foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which he was before a citizen or subject, which proceeding shall be recorded by the clerk of the court (in a suitable book provided by the Government for said purpose), and it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court before whom said

alien shall have taken the oath of allegiance and abjuration, to be fully satisfied that every such alien has resided in the Republic of Liberia at least three years prior to his application for citizenship; that during said time the applicant has behaved as a man of good moral character; that he is attached to the principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same. Provided, nevertheless, the oath of the applicant shall in no case be allowed to prove his time of residence in the Republic."

The first clause of the first section of the resolution of the session of 1895-'96 is in the following words: "That from and immediately after the passage of this joint resolution any immigrant or immigrants coming into the Republic of Liberia must first take oath of allegiance to the Republic and abjuration of the sovereign or state whence he comes, after which he may receive aid from the Government as such." An immigrant applying for assistance can at once become a citizen, while one of independent means could not be admitted as a citizen for four years after his arrival, under the earlier law.

Incidentally the two laws illustrate two methods of procedure in naturalization cases, which have grown up and continued side by side in this Republic.

Before 1868 the American Negro was not regarded as a citizen of the United States. It was solemnly declared by the Supreme Court of the United States that a Negro had no right before the law or which a white man was bound to respect; and although that decision met with the moral reprobation of a large section of the people of the United States, yet its legal accuracy and correctness was never denied. The Negro immigrant from the United States who came to Liberia before 1866 had no international status. It was therefore quite unimportant whether he took the oath of allegiance or not, and most of those who came arrived with no other intention but of settling down in the country. Since that time the Negro immigrant who comes into Liberia comes as a recognized citizen of the United States. I observe the practice in vogue in Liberia before the American civil war is still persevered in as regards the American immigrant. He is often allowed to draw land, to vote, and to exercise the right of citizenship before he has taken the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Liberia. Some years

ago one of these immigrants arrived in the country and went to Robertsport, where he drew land and settled; within a couple of months he died intestate and the monthly and probate court of the district proceeded to take possession of his effects and administer them for the benefit of creditors and possible heirs. The minister resident of the United States claimed that this man's effects ought to be delivered to him, on the ground that he was a citizen of the United States, and finally his claim had to be conceded. About two years ago a party of immigrants from the United States went to Sinoe; they were received, housed, and fed at the expense of the Govrnment, had lands assigned them, and, although it was contrary to law and objected to, were allowed to vote. Some of the company immediately after returned to the United States. One of them told the Secretary of the Treasury that he was not a citizen of Liberia, but of the United States. He had not taken oath of allegiance and abjuration.

There is no desire whatever on the part of the Government and people of Liberia to throw obstacles in the way of immigrants. Indeed, to do so would be contrary to the organic statute, which ordains, "There shall be no law prohibiting immigration." We must have, however, a properly drawn naturalization law, and we must have the same procedure applicable to immigrants of Negro descent from all countries.

Now, when the law of 1877 was drawn, the author was probably not thinking of American immigrants at law. He had in his mind the earlier mode of procedure. But laws must be applied to all persons without discrimination. The statute must be changed to meet actual circumstances, and especially the term of probation, before citizenship must be shortened as much as possible. In this connection I desire to explain a matter about which there has been a good deal of quiet misrepresentation of the motives of the Executive Government.

Some colored Americans desired to buy land in the country, but did not wish by any express act to acquire the status of citizens. The Government announced that it would be compelled to oppose any act of that kind. The Constitution says: "No person shall be entitled to hold land in the Republic unless he be a citizen of the same." And again all our treaties contain

a most favored nation clause. Hence we cannot, in view of the provisions of the Constitution, accord to citizens of the United States, although Negroes, the right to hold property and withhold that right from citizens or subjects of other governments.

The Postmaster General having made the necessary preparations, the stamp act went into force at the beginning of July. This act will be very helpful, as it affords a revenue which must increase with the expansion of the business of the nation.

The convenience of the postal money order has been extended to the counties of Grand Bassa and Maryland, and will also be afforded to the inhabitants of Sinoe as soon as the new postal building is ready for occupancy.

At the International Postal Congress held at Rome in the month of August the Government of Liberia was represented by our consul general in Italy. Among other things it was agreed that the international rates of postage for every letter not exceeding 20 grammes in weight should be 25 centimes, equal to 5 cents. It was before 25 centimes for 15 grammes.

Authority is given to postal administration, for good reasons, to adjourn for the present the application of this measure. For financial reasons our postal administration, which we are aiming to make self-supporting, must for the present refrain from adopting the measure.

Liberia is the only bit of West African territory which is not connected by cable with other parts of the world. The African Direct Telegraphic Company, Limited, has offered to connect the capital of the Republic by cable with other parts of Africa and Great Britain on the following conditions: (*a*) an annual subsidy of £2,000 for ten years; (*b*) a concession of sole and exclusive telegraph cable rights for 25 years; (*c*) the necessary land whereon to build a cable office and a house for the living accommodation of the staff; (*d*) freedom from taxations and port dues and free import of materials required for the building and their upkeep.

It will take, it is calculated, £40,000 to lay cable to connect with the main line at Sierra Leone. There would be special rates to the Government.

It is suggested that important firms might contribute toward the annual subsidy. The company, however, will look only to

the Government of Liberia for payment. The administration considers that the Treasury is hardly able to pay at present so large a subsidy, for the subscription by local firms, even if made, could not, for many reasons, be confidently relied on during the period stipulated. The matter is placed before you for suggestion.

Savings banks are regarded in a great measure as educational institutions, because they teach the people self-control and self-reliance. The Negro, as well as other races living in the tropics, is often charged with thriftlessness. This is perhaps due to the natural luxuriance and warmth of his racial habitat. We are, however, bound to admit that the saving of money tends both to self-control and self-reliance. We should give opportunity for the practice of thrift. The small savings of great masses of people mount up to very large sums. For example, if a million persons should put by 10 cents yearly it will aggregate $100,000. Every nation needs and must have money in a national crisis or for purposes of development, and ought to be able to obtain it in a great measure from the savings of its own citizens. The idea of creating postal savings banks may be by some received with derision, but it will not be so by thoughtful persons who have looked into the subject and have noticed the immense sums thus gathered out of the savings of the masses. The Post-Office Department ought, therefore, to be authorized by law to make regulations and to open such banks at the principal postal offices.

Considering the numerical proportions of our communities, the Americo-Liberians are possibly the greatest travelers of all the civilized people of West Africa. It is a pity, however, that they pay little attention to the contiguous colonies and protectorates. If they did so they would probably have formed a correct idea of the great improvements and enormous development which have taken place around them, and would not be inclined to criticise, but rather applaud and assist the efforts of their Government to keep pace, however lamely, with the times.

I am afraid, however, that we are still influenced by the ideas held here since 1848 that Liberia need not hurry; no one wanted Africa, and we might annex and develop at our leisure.

The loss of territory on the northwest and southeast has not served to alarm us. We have accepted the suggestions of the neighboring powers as to what territories we should retain and we are disposed to rest on our oars. But let us remember that if we have rights we have also duties to perform to other nations, and our retention of territory will depend upon our action in that regard.

It is not enough to have concluded treaties setting boundaries. Acquisition must be followed by action in the shape of occupation. Occupation does not mean that we must occupy the whole country by means of settlement, or even reduce it to a state of entire subjection, but it does mean that we should have stations and national officers on the frontiers for the protection of the subjects of powers with whom we are in treaty relations, and other purposes.

At the West African Congress held at Berlin in 1885 it was said by a great political authority: "For an occupation to be considered effective it is to be desired that the owner manifest without an unreasonable delay the will and the power to exercise his rights and to discharge the duties which result."

Liberia was a recognized State long before the Berlin Conference. It considers the native tribes within its borders as citizens rather than subjects, and there might be ground on its part to question some of the *dicta* laid down at that conference. But it is a fact that the great powers really settle the principles of international law. Small States must conform. It results, therefore, that we are compelled to occupy our frontiers with a frontier guard, suitable officials, and customs stations, and give to the frontier district an organized government on civilized lines.

The English frontier requires urgent attention. The Sierra Leone railway has been brought close to our frontier. We have no organized administration above Jenne, at the head of navigation of the Mano or Bewa river.

The Government despatched in June Commissioner Lomax to Zuay with an escort to patrol the country and to report on conditions. His report indicates the need for the immediate organization of the districts above Zuay.

Everything has remained quiet in the district of Grand Cape Mount, and trade is on the increase. There has been very little fighting in the hinterland of Montserrado county during the year, but the Bailie district is still unsettled. The Government has not, however, relaxed its efforts.

A commissioner has been appointed to look after affairs on the coast of Grand Bassa and settle disputes between native communities and traders.

Complaints having been made to the Government respecting the obstruction of roads in the hinterland of Sinoe county, two small expeditions were despatched to the Secom and Putu districts respectively, one led by Special Commissioner C. A. Minor, the other conducted by the Hon. S. A. Ross, which did good work and opened the obstructed roads.

Some fighting took place during the year in the county of Maryland between the Grebo subtribe, living at Fishtown and Rocktown, and the Krebo tribe, caused by a dispute concerning land. The attention of the chiefs of the tribes concerned was at once called to the law forbidding intertribal warfare. The dispute was finally submitted to the superintendent of Maryland county and the local council, by whom it was adjusted.

In the month of April last I paid an official visit to the district of Marshall. I regard it as a valuable and interesting country, with water facilities superior to the lower St. Paul's. Its great difficulty has been the want of proper communications. The Junk bar is rather dangerous and it is both difficult and expensive to carry everything on men's heads over the plain between the Junk and Messurado rivers.

A concession was granted to the Tramway Company of Montserrado County in 1895 to construct a light line across the plain between the two rivers. This project is being considered by the firm of Messrs. Wiechers & Helm, who may furnish the capital (between $12,000 and $15,000) necessary for its accomplishment. It has been proposed that should said firm so do, the Government guarantee the interest on the capital expended. I hope that in case it should take up the project that this proposal will be approved by the Legislature in the interest of that valuable district.

The improvement of the native paths leading from the Americo-Liberian townships to the purely aboriginal settlements is an urgent necessity which I trust will have, whenever possible, the earnest attention of all local authorities. During a short tour made by me in the month of March through the Tekke and Kpo Golah districts I found the paths, after leaving Brewerville, in a very bad condition, almost impassable for hammocks. I gave instructions to the Golah chiefs that these roads must be straightened and opened to a width of at least 12 feet. An overseer was appointed to see that the work was done. A surveyor was directed to survey and straighten out the winding and bushy paths.

The Tekke Golahs furnished, without cost to Government, 400, the Deys 200, men for work on this road. The Government furnished cutlasses and axes. The Gibbee chiefs were ordered to open up a road of similar width in the direction of Owensgrove, Grand Bassa county. This has been done and the clearing out of this road has already greatly benefited trade in the district of Marshall.

The duty of constructing and keeping open roads of decent width is placed upon all Americo-Liberian townships, the population of which have to give 12 days in each year to this duty. The native communities are bound by the same law. Where no municipality exists the recognized chiefs should be directed by superintendents of counties to perform this duty.

I think it can be stated with truth that the Government has now a firmer grip on the hinterland than ever it had before. If the present policy is continuously pursued, that hold must become stronger and stronger.

There is a source of weakness, however, to which I feel I ought to call attention. It is the attitude of a certain class of Americo-Liberian citizens in all sections of the country toward the Government in its dealings with the aboriginal population. They seem to forget that they are citizens of the Republic—bound to support their own Government—the *core* around which the nation is to be formed—so they turn Vey, Golah, Bassa, or Kru, and endeavor to obstruct orders and authority of Government in a most treasonable way. I trust that the courts will always deal severely with this class of people.

We are spending over $40,000 yearly on education, principally on primary schools; yet the results are not satisfying. I attribute this in a great measure to the somewhat apathetic attitude of the people, which tends to react upon the officials in charge of this important interest. Reforms take time and much effort. The Government will do everything in its power to ensure educational progress. The Legislature has paid no attention so far to the recommendations already made by this Government for the improvement of public education.

I desire that the Superintendent of Public Education should have Cabinet rank, and that he work in consort with an unpaid Board of Public Education, composed of eminent and competent citizens. It was expected that continuity of policy and a valuable impetus would be thus afforded to the cause of public education. The duties which the citizen owes to the State, and the problems which its leaders must solve, and can only solve by the assistance of those intrusted with the franchise, will never be properly apprehended and understood unless we have an intelligent population, instructed through the medium of a public-school system on proper and improved lines. The report of the Commissioner of Education will come up for consideration in due course. Among other amendments to the school laws he will ask that the school week be extended to five days and the working school days be extended to six hours. I think this is just.

The Legislature in 1903 authorized the collection of a school tax. Shall it be collected by the officers charged with gathering the property and poll taxes or by whom, and what shall be the percentage paid for the service? This tax, you will remember, was to be placed at the service of the Educational Bureau.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, whose report will be laid before you in due course, has been employed during your recess principally in advocating and assisting in the formation of agricultural societies. So far only two have been established, one each in the counties of Montserrado and Grand Bassa. It has been nearly fifty years since the endeavor to stimulate the productive energies of the community by official effort has been abandoned. The dependence of the community, every day more obvious, upon the outside world even for necessaries of life,

must be a source of great alarm to all patriotic citizens. Let us stimulate the producing classes by the re-establishment of agricultural and industrial fairs or shows, and let it be done on the coöperative plan. Whenever an agricultural society shall raise $1,000 for expenses, the Government will be authorized to spend $1,000 in prizes and for obtaining and placing machinery for exhibit on the grounds. I am sure that an active society can and will raise the required sum by donations, gate money, and sale of special privileges within the grounds. Only one of said gatherings should for the present be held yearly.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will give particular information concerning the financial condition of the Government and various branches of the public service connected with the Treasury Department.

During the last fiscal year the receipts from the customs were $275,157.69; to which Montserrado county contributed $134,673.43; Grand Bassa county, $83,780.03; Sinoe, $27,680.09; Maryland county, $28,802.84, and from all sources, $357,433.39. The expenditures amounted to $340,035.83. The amount expended account last loan will be separately reported. The interest due on foreign loans has been regularly paid.

In accordance with the joint resolution of the Legislature, approved by the President, the Liberian Development Company paid over to the Treasury the £30,000 stipulated in gold coin, and this, except £1,500 turned into silver and copper coins, was applied as stipulated to the payment of drafts and checks on the Treasury and sub-treasurers and dutiable papers of the Republic, held by merchants, traders, and citizens. The sum of these papers, when filed with the Secretary of the Treasury, amounted to $263,687.87. Of this sum, German firms and traders held $132,728.57.

Liberian traders and citizens.....	$82,816.01
Dutch traders	30,043.19
English traders	18,100.16

The Secretary immediately paid to holders in coin $150,000, more or less, and gave due notes for about $110,000. The larger firms accepted on account of balance due a series of notes running over a period of from one to four years, one note being

payable in each case every six months. To the smaller holders were given non-transferable notes, and it was arranged to pay quarterly, if possible, at least 10 per cent. of the face of such notes. These notes would therefore be paid up in about two and a half years. Up to the month of October about $30,000 of notes were paid. There are still $80,000 of these notes held, of which sum six mercantile houses hold about $60,000. The Government hopes to pay off the whole debt in three years at the rate of $30,000 per year. The greater portion of the appropriation for outstanding claims and the amount of the 10 per cent. discount is to be applied to this special purpose.

In regard to audited bills still outstanding, not a very large amount, it must not be thought that they escape attention. A great many persons on the rumor of the payment of the floating debt hastened to turn their bills into drafts and cheques. Some of these bills will be turned into gold bonds by the holders; others absorbed by payment to such sources of internal revenue as land sales, judiciary fines, and the like. A certain sum will be paid out of the appropriation for outstanding claims.

The inspectors of customs, recommended by the British Government at our request, arrived in April, and were duly commissioned and sworn in. The arrangement has so far worked very smoothly. It has not been thought necessary to suggest any changes in our own civil service, because their duties, while administrative, are intended to be to a great extent educative.

The banking department of the Liberian Development Company commenced receiving revenue on behalf of the Republic at the port of Monrovia on the 7th of April. Every one paid from that date in gold. The company has not been able to get for other places, in the short time that has intervened, suitable persons able to give security, and hence it has not for the present extended its operations further. The sub-treasurers, as heretofore, except at Monrovia, have continued to receive the customs revenue and to account in the usual way.

The Company informed the Treasury that the sum of £10,000, the floating loan specified in section 4 of the resolution, was at its disposal at any time. It has been found necessary to use from that source only £2,000, which is being returned by fixed installments from current revenue.

The banking scheme was intended also to be applied so as to benefit the farmers, small traders, and citizens generally, who desire to avail themselves of the services of a bank and could give the necessary security, and with this idea a scheme has been considered and settled between the Government and the manager of the company and sent to London for suggestions and amendments. It is intended to serve as the charter of the bank for the purposes above named. This will be placed before you during the session for your consideration and action.

The outline of the road scheme was laid before the Legislature two years ago, and is in principle approved by the loan resolution. The considerations which commend such a scheme to your support are as follows: Very little trade reaches the Liberian ports from beyond a zone say of fifty miles from the coast. Outside of this zone the cost of transport makes trade, except in rubber and ivory, impossible. The territory of Liberia is already or will soon be practically encircled by railroads, English and French, tapping the trade of its frontier along a zone from forty to fifty miles wide, which trade naturally is carried to their ports and must enrich the revenues of Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast, to the detriment of Liberia financially as well as politically. The revenue at the disposal of the Government does not permit it at present to build railroads or to obtain the loan of the necessary capital to do so. This is very clear, for concessions were granted by the Legislature during the last thirty years for two or three railroads, but no capitalist could be found to take up these projects. It must have been due to the fact that the revenue of the Republic did not appear sufficient to guarantee interest on the capital to be expended. The success which attended the introduction of the automobile or steam carriage appeared to the Executive Government a solution of the difficulty. A steam carriage of the sort can be run along a wagon road. A mile of railroad in Africa cost all the way from thirty thousand to forty thousand dollars. A mile of road suitable for motor cars can be constructed for fifteen hundred dollars, or even less, if the Government chooses to take advantage of the principle, with which the whole population is well acquainted, that the cost of making and maintaining the roads is a duty which the citizen owes the State and for which service it does not

remunerate him. A hundred miles of railroad will cost at $30,000 per mile not less than $3,000,000; 400 miles of road suitable for motors, 100 miles through each county, might be easily constructed for $800,000. The annual interest on $3,000,000 is $180,000; on $800,000, $48,000. The former is practically two-thirds of our present revenue; the latter sum might be found with economy, even under present conditions. But I am sure that before the roads reached completion the increased revenue would afford the interest without affecting for more than one or two years present conditions.

The penetration of the interior has been the desire of all our leaders for the last 70 years. We are about to endeavor to make it an actual fact. The arrangement with the company, in substance, is that they are to construct two roads suitable for motors, omnibuses, and freight wagons out of the recent loan; one as far as the town of Bopora on the left bank of the St. Paul's; the other through the townships of Crozierville, Bensonville, and Careysburg as far as Kaka town, on the road to the Pesseh country, on the right bank of the St. Paul's. A third road has been arranged for, to be constructed between Harper and the Cavalla river. The survey for this last road will commence during the present month. These roads will all be public roads open to foot passengers, porters, and bicycles, and for all purposes except vehicular traffic, which is reserved by the Government and is conceded to the company for twenty-one years with the right of renewal for another ten years should the Government see fit. The net profit is to be divided between the Government and the company. The moiety which falls to the Government will form part of the sinking fund for repayment of the loan.

Work on the Careysburg road was commenced in May. The conditions of the loan resolution placed the company at a disadvantage, since if the work was not commenced by September the arrangement lapsed. However, it procured the services of Captain Dugmore, D. S. O., who had considerable road-building experience in Africa.

Of course it takes time to build good roads and these roads must be built rather slowly, although without unnecessary delay, because many things, such as soil and the like, have to be considered in road building; and where stones and gravel are not

abundant, a good road builder desires to watch how his first road wears before going ahead too far, so that he may profit from the weaknesses or strong points developed in his first workings.

The company will account to the Government for every dollar spent on these roads. It is hoped that the section of the road between the river and Careysburg will be opened before your adjournment.

I am in fairness compelled to call your attention to the salaries of certain members of the Cabinet. The Secretary of State and of the Treasury receive each $1,000. The Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Attorney General only $700 each. Their salaries should be equalized.

There is not any appreciable difference now in the amount of work done by each department. The Post Office Department is always busy, and its work is increasing. The Secretary of the Interior has to superintend, receive reports of, and give instructions to some twenty commissioners stationed in different sections of the Republic, and the exigency of our situation may compel us, as already shadowed in this paper, to increase the number.

The duties of the Attorney General, in any case onerous and delicate, have become more so with the increase of public business and the gradual enlargement of the sphere of the administration. The legal recognition of customary native law, and the necessity of devising a suitable modus, naturally will give birth to new legal problems requiring solution. His time is fully taken up and his advice and opinion is constantly in request.

It is usual in almost all countries that officers of equal rank have the same salary. I trust that this recommendation will have your favorable consideration at this session.

A great deal of inconvenience has been experienced by the want of a responsible official to assist and sometimes represent the Secretary of State in the discharge of his duties. The creation of the office of Assistant Secretary is now recommended. The Secretary of State will adduce to the Committee on Foreign Affairs weighty reasons why such an appointment should be made. No additional appropriation for salary is required in connection with the suggested appointment.

Your attention will be called by the Secretary of the Treasury to several revenue laws, which are defective and a source of leakage, among which are the laws concerning the strength of spirits and alcoholic compounds, and the statutes allowing Kru boys and laborers to bring in goods free of duty. I think these laws should be carefully scrutinized, especially the latter.

The internal revenue needs looking after. For the last ten years it totals only $122,091.00, something more than $12,000 per annum, not including Kru boys' tax. In this direction we are, I am sure, losing thousands of dollars yearly. At your last session I recommended the creation of a new bureau in connection with the Treasury Department, at the head of which should be placed a commissioner charged with the management and collection of the internal revenue. This office will be a productive one and will not be an additional burden on the country. The following are sources of internal revenue:

Land sales, judiciary fines, military fines, tax on Kru boys and laborers, poll taxes, taxes on real estate, licenses, the navy tax, the school tax, the tax on distilleries or their products. Assessors are to be appointed, assessments made and examined, reports of courts-martial scrutinized, and the list prepared for collection; forms got up; reports of tax collectors examined, and suggestions made. The taxes are all set out in the statutes, but are not regularly or properly collected. The taxes are exacted from some, others escape. Some officers are honest, others do not faithfully account, owing to want of a proper system and a strict oversight. Now, I say, either take off the taxes or else provide proper machinery for enforcing them. Not to do the latter betrays an absence of seriousness on the part of the Government.

There are many citizens who desire to share the advantages which an organized Government affords, but are very unwilling to contribute anything to its support. They wish to share in the distribution, but do not want to contribute to the fund. It is our duty to see that the advantages and the burdens are equally distributed.

Your attention has been more than once drawn both by the President and other members of the Government to the anomalous status of the Liberian paper currency. The last registrars

of the public debt reported $20,000. This paper currency is a source of trouble, and may be eventually a source of loss if not demonetized—that is, declared not a legal tender. As before, I suggest that this step be taken. The amount in circulation should be exchanged (*a*) for gold bonds, or (*b*) be received for public lands, for judiciary fines, and taxes on real estate, until exhausted. It might be replaced to advantage and profit in the circulation of the country by silver coin.

The law of the Republic directs that all salaries be paid quarterly. This has been found a source of great hardship to subordinate officers and employees whose salaries fall below $30.00 per month. I suggest that such employees be paid monthly and the law be amended accordingly.

The Legislature has within the last four years, by the adoption of a series of measures, very much strengthened the financial situation and the budget, as well as blocked the way of all those who saw in the monetary embarrassment of the Government a chance eventually of depriving us of independence. The first measure dealt with was audited bills, which it was enacted original holders could not legally transfer to others, or to any one but to the Government. The effect of this measure was to keep that sort of paper in the hands of Liberian citizens and to keep the local debt spread out among our own people. Foreigners were deprived of the chances of speculating in bills and of exercising power and putting on pressure through means of large holdings of paper, which, if not paid, might eventually cause the intervention of their home government. It incidentally, too, put an end to a dangerous fraud on the Government, rapidly at that time becoming prevalent, the creation of false bills which were bought at cheap rates by the traders, foreign as well as Liberian. Against the perpetrators of this fraud, who admitted their guilt in every case by flight, the Government was not able to obtain a single conviction. The second measure passed last year, the loan resolution, enabled the Government to get rid of the Treasury drafts and cheques in circulation and to return to specie payments, and this, too, worked for our political security.

Further satisfaction will be found in the manner in which the foreign loans have been arranged. To the services of the 7 per cent. loan of 1871 is assigned the rubber duties; one-half

the duties received for powder and tobacco, and one-third the spirits duties. The funds from these sources are amply sufficient to meet both interest and amortization of principal. Its charges have been regularly paid, the bondholders are satisfied, and there can be no fear on that head. The Development Company has been invested by the Republic with the right of receiving the customs revenue and of deducting the interest of the loan they recently arranged from it. There is no time fixed in the agreement for the payment of the principal sum. We have reserved the right to do so within ten years. If we do not avail ourselves of this right we cannot be pressed or annoyed in any way, provided payment of interest is continued. A sinking fund is arranged for by setting aside one-tenth of any increase of the customs revenue over £50,000 ($240,000). Then there is moiety of the profits from the bank scheme and the road scheme to be added to this. This fund will have its initiation during the present fiscal year, and there is no doubt that if the country is quietly but firmly governed it will develop and increase much more rapidly than we at present imagine.

In its relation to the Government of Liberia, the Liberian Development Company is but an agent of the State. It has no powers but what we have granted and politically they are of no importance. It can do no harm; on the contrary, it is going to be of enormous service in assisting the development of the country. The Executive and Legislature have great latent powers. These branches of Government always remain invested with the power to see that the State suffers no harm.

But one thing is wanting to complete public satisfaction. The stern refusal of the Legislature to appropriate more money than can be derived from the revenue actually in sight.

I know how members are pressed by constituents and constituencies, but to these appeals and demands it is essential that you turn a deaf ear. The vital, necessary, and the just *only* should have attention. I must again call attention to the local budgets of the counties of Sinoe and Maryland. They are far in excess of local revenue in sight, or likely to be in sight just now, and these counties, a large portion of whose local debt has just been paid off under the last loan arrangement, will soon pile up a new debt if they do not cut their garment according to their

cloth. We must not forget the axiom, "sound finance is the foundation of the independence of States." Our continued autonomy largely depends upon our keeping as much as possible out of debt, or if we create debt let it be for productive purposes, for the development of the country in cases where money will beget money, and then only within limits which it is apparent to every one we are competent to manage.

The Government regretted to learn that a Senate bill introduced at the last session looking to the creation of a military council to be presided over by the Secretary of War and charged with the consideration of all matters respecting the organization, drill, armament, and the general improvement of the Republic, failed to pass largely on account of the pay set down for the members of the prospective council. The subject is extremely important and vital. I trust that the matter will again be brought forward and the differences which prevented its passage so arranged as to permit the measure to become law.

And in conclusion, fellow-citizens, we shall never be able adequately to discharge our duty to the State unless, while attending to our own concerns, we keep a finger on the pulse of international public opinion. Our duty to our country is to some extent marked out by the thought of the world of today of which we form a part. Liberia is looked upon with apparent disdain, and yet with a certain degree of suspicion. An African State surrounded by populations of the same race, under alien rule she has great future possibilities.

The philanthropic wave which moved and influenced the European world for over half a century seems for the present to have almost entirely ebbed. There is a great diffusion of knowledge today, but less generosity and elevation of mind. This is essentially a material age. There is, perhaps, equality of opportunity, but without favor. The Negro need expect nothing but what he may achieve through his own heroic exertions and sacrifices. It follows, therefore, that there never has been a time when unity, resolution, and caution in our public affairs are more needed. There was never a time when our people everywhere require more to submit to discipline, to leadership, and that leaders be patriotic and broad, patient, determined, self-sacrificing.

Let these thoughts animate us all in the discharge of our public duties and pervade our minds while engaged in the execution of the tasks assigned us as the servants and agents of the people of this Republic.

ARTHUR BARCLAY.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *December* 11, 1906.

ITEMS.

BETTER SCHOOLS AND COÖPERATION WITH SOUTHERN WHITES—BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, LL. D., PRINCIPAL TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE.—There are certain matters of vital interest to the masses of our people in the South, especially at the present time when they are getting money from the year's crop, which I wish, through the medium of your paper, to call to their attention. If these matters are not called to the attention of our people now while they have money in hand, it will be too late for them to secure any benefit from the suggestions herein outlined. In many cases, during the months of November and December, our people receive and spend thousands of dollars. In many cases this money is worse than thrown away. My object in writing thus directly and frankly to our people is to help lead them to spend their money in a way that will be of permanent benefit to the entire race.

I know that there are many other elements in our present condition that very much concern us, and rightly so, but we can succeed in no line of endeavor, materially, morally, religiously or in civil life, unless the fundamentals exist. Eighty-five per cent. of our people in the lower part of the South reside in country districts. An examination will show that in many cases while the public schools are in session in cities and larger towns from six to nine months in the year, in the country districts, in many cases, our people have not adequate school facilities. If we fail to educate our children there will be little hope for us in any line of endeavor. We must keep constantly before the race the importance of educating the masses of our young people. Comparatively few can go to the large colleges, universities, and industrial schools. If the average boy and girl does not receive education in the country public schools he will suffer. At any cost, our leaders should see to it that every cent of money is secured from the public school authorities that can be secured. If enough cannot be secured to make the public school what it should be, people should go into their own pockets and tax themselves in order to supplement the work of the public school to the extent that every school shall be in session at least six or eight

months out of every year. In many cases at present, in the country districts, the public school is in session only three or five months. This means almost nothing in the way of educating the entire race. We will go backward at this rate instead of forward. It is not enough to complain that we do not receive our rightful share of the public school fund. Wherever this is true we should make complaint and secure, as far as possible, whatever is due us, but at the same time, if we do not receive what is due us, we should not let our children grow up in ignorance. We will never be forgiven for such neglect if this is permitted. Not only is it important that the school term in every community be extended to six or eight months, but it is equally important that every community have a good, comfortable house. In many cases the schools that our children are being taught in are wrecks of log cabins, broken-down, uncomfortable houses that are not fit for cows to live in. The school houses in many of the country districts are a disgrace. Our leaders in these communities should see to it that our people are encouraged to come together and erect good, decent, comfortable houses.

Another element in the situation that often hinders the progress of the public school is that we let the denominational spirit enter into the public school education of the children. There should be no place in the public school system for this spirit. The teacher is not expected to teach the Baptist, Methodist, or Presbyterian doctrine. The harm of denominational contention is often shown in the fact that in many communities there will be a Baptist school, a Zion Methodist school, and an African Methodist school, and each with a teacher of its own denomination. This means three poor schools that ought to be united in one first-class school, where the question of denomination would not enter. We must have a great forward movement among our people in every part of the South in the matter of public school education for our people, and we depend upon the minister, the teacher, and the parents to take the lead in this respect.

I know many communities where school farms have been cultivated by the parents, teachers, and children, so that the school term might be extended to six or eight months. If communities have not the cash with which to extend the school term they can raise cotton or some other crop to answer the same purpose.

Ignorance always invites injustice. Ignorance, in the last analysis, means inefficiency and crime. Ignorance strikes at the very heart of the race.

Some interests of the race may perhaps be postponed, but in the matter of educating our children it is now or never. We are to decide now whether we shall have an ignorant generation or an intelligent one.

In addressing this letter to the Negro people of the South I cannot omit one other suggestion. I believe that nearly every community in the South will be greatly helped if the ministers would resume the

habit which existed some years ago, of inviting their white brother ministers to preach as often as possible in Negro pulpits. In this way the leaders of the white people would come in contact with the progress of our people, come into contact with the best element of our people, and we would let the white people see the progress we are making, and they would also come into contact with our needs, and since the interests of the two races are so deeply connected, this kind of co-operation would go far in maintaining peace, happiness, and justice in every community. I should advise that not only the white minister be invited to speak from our pulpits, but whenever it is thought wise, some of the leading public men who are either municipal, county, or state officers should be invited to come among our people and deliver addresses, so that they, too, may note the progress the race is making. And at the same time they can hear from us what our needs and conditions are.

Nothing is ever gained by getting discouraged, by sitting down, crying or whining. The race, like an individual, that succeeds is the race that is determined never to become discouraged, but is constantly going forward in making material, educational, moral and religious progress.—*Southwestern Christian Advocate.*

Industrial Education.—Dr. Booker T. Washington's Address at Mt. Olivet Church, New Yory City.—Six years ago I paid a visit one evening to the trade classes Dr. Bulkley had started in his public school. It took courage and foresight to make that beginning in industrial education here in your city.

We need mental training—thorough discipline. In addition, our race, like all others, needs technical hand training to accompany it, and if we do not get that technical hand training we will, like other races, be less well off. Education increases our wants. The high school girl wants a spring hat in the fashion; but if her ability to earn has not increased at the same time as her taste for such things then is she in danger of temptation. There are thousands of mothers and fathers in this city who can so testify.

The same thing is true with respect to housing, and to all the other wants which enter into the life of the city. In the North our people have many advantages—education, civil rights, travel. But when it comes to finding methods and places to use education and skill we don't always find the North so hospitable as the Southern States. The store or the factory does not open so quickly as the door of the school.

Then, there are so many opportunities for the individual to spend his money, especially our young people. My friends, we are the most generous people on earth. On Saturday night we divide up with every nationality in existence—Americans, Germans, Jews, Italians. Come forward and get your share! By Monday morning we have

divided up with every people on the face of the earth. We have got the sense of having a reputation of being a thriftless race, being a poverty-stricken race. It has come about that when a man sees the color of our face he associates it with poverty. Let us get people to associate competence with that color.

I do not mean that money or property is the highest thing in life—over and above all is high moral Christian character. That's the end. These are the means. It's a hard job to make a good Christian of a hungry man. The possession of a home or a bank account indicates the ability of a race to sacrifice today for the future, for the rainy days ahead. We don't look out for next week—for the year ahead. Let's change all this. We are changing it. Don't get the idea we are not making progress; but I want more progress.

Those of you who have come to the cities of the North from the South—keep that strong, healthy body you brought with you. They don't grow bodies here the way they do in Virginia—with plenty of sleep and fresh air and three meals a day. Keep that and build on it. We have got to perform service not merely as well, but better than others, if we are to succeed. You can't keep up with others if they sleep twelve hours a night and you five. If any of you young men sit up and play cards until midnight you can't keep up. Cut that habit out. No amount of co-operation will help you unless you do. Down South the boy was ten miles from a saloon, and then he could only get liquor on Saturday. Here there is a saloon on every corner, and it is open every day and most of the night.

At Memphis the other day I met a delegation of men from a Mississippi town, a State where we are made to believe the colored man has more to contend against than in most others. Yet, who were these men? One was introduced as the mayor of a town; one as the cashier of a bank; one as a director of that bank. How was that? They had created that town out of nothing—had created that bank. That was how one was a mayor and one a cashier and one a director, and so on to the end of the list. We have got to be creators of something; we must not be content to be so dependent upon the good will of others. If by some miraculous power a law were passed prohibiting the black people of New York from wearing shoes not made or sold by black people what would follow? Every black man and woman in the city would be barefoot. You may have a shoe factory here, but I have never seen it. There may be a shoe store owned by a colored man here, but I have yet to see it. Yet in Memphis there was a colored shoe store, a prosperous one. They had created that opportunity. Let us be creators of that kind of opportunity. There are so many of these opportunities.

We over-emphasize our difficulties. If a colored man is refused a sandwich at a lunch counter, it takes up more space in the average colored newspaper than if he had started a bank. Our boy must

begin where the Italian immigrant begins. He learns the word apple or peanut and sets up a stand. He saves, he works, and in time he becomes a master in these great cities. I have no patience with the doctrine that America has no opportunity. It is the best country I have ever seen. There's a future for us here. Let's make up our minds that with our heads and hands and hearts we are going ahead.

I have told the story before of the man I watched crabbing. He put the crabs in a big basket with low sides. "Aren't you afraid those crabs will crawl out?" I said to him, for it looked that way. "Watch them a minute and you will see," he said. "You will see that just when one of those big fellows reaches up and gets to the point where there is a chance of his getting out one of the little fellows behind grabs a-hold of him and pulls him down."

In this great philanthropic effort in behalf of our people let none of us be crabs. I see much good in this movement. There is salvation for our people in it. Let's spread it into every corner of New York and to other cities.—*The New York Age.*

Cecil Rhodes' Big Dream Soon to be Realized.—Wireless telegraphy is to take a part in the opening of Africa. Its services are invoked just now to complete the line of overland telegraphic communication between Cape Town and the Mediterranean.

Fifteen years ago, while Mahdism was still rampant in the Soudan and before Cecil Rhodes had launched his scheme for a railroad from the Cape to Cairo, that financial potentate declared that he intended to stretch a telegraph wire from the Cape of Good Hope to the Mediterranean. The work was started at the southern end and all was smooth sailing till the wire crossed the Zambesi and got into the barbarous regions beyond. Then the line could advance no faster than friendships were formed with the black kinglets, who were subsidized with beads and brass wire to assure the safety of the line in their respective domains.

So the line pushed on through forest and jungle till it passed up the east shore of Lake Tanganyika and finally halted at Ujiji. This Arab settlement is famous as the place where Mr. Stanley one morning lifted his hat to a feeble old man and remarked: "Dr. Livingstone, I believe."

There the end of the line has remained for about two years, for the reason that it is in German territory. The wild and mountainous region to the north is difficult for telegraph construction, and the white rulers as yet have had little to do with their subjects between Tanganyika and Victoria Nyanza.

Meanwhile, the line from the north has been pushed south clear through the Soudan and Uganda to Port Victoria, on the shore of the greatest of African lakes. A gap of only 450 miles remains to complete the transcontinental enterprise.

Preparations are now being made to establish wireless telegraphy across this gap. So the system bids fair to be completed in a way that Rhodes never dreamed of when he grasped the great idea of stretching an electric line between the north and south of Africa.—*The New York Sun.*

Material Independence Basis of Good and Effectual Citizenship.—The prejudice existing against the race in the South is largely the logical result of our own folly, and superficial disposition on our part to reach out after the unattainable at the expense of the attainable. We have mistaken the superficial for real and constructive progress. We have too largely believed that political emolument and recognition would outweigh tangible wealth and character.

To begin with, we undertook to erect our civilization upon ignorance and poverty instead of intelligence and wealth. Instead of underlying our racial progress with economic independence and industrial efficiency, we staked all on politics, and undertook to rule our former masters, who were two thousand years ahead of us in the world's civilization. The white man did not begin this great republican fabric in politics. It was after he had felled the forest, laid the foundations for our great cities, that he undertook to wring the government from British rule and declare himself a free man.

There can be neither permanent nor constructive progress among us until our early errors are corrected. We must begin at the bottom and lay our foundation firmly in the soil. We must become producers of wealth as well as consumers if we would reach the highest civilization. The habits of thrift, industry, and economy must be the directing element of our lives.

It will take drastic measures to bring the masses of us to a full realization of duties and responsibilities of citizenship. So few of us realize that the national character is only what the citizens contribute to it, and that it is incumbent upon each of us to contribute something valuable, tangible or intangible. So many of us expect to contribute nothing and extract a fortune. The sooner the Negro realizes that he will be no greater factor in the body politic than he contributes to the national growth in real worth and character, just so soon will our permanent and constructive development begin.—*The Atlantic Independent.*

Bishop Smith Finds a Chance for Thousands.—An effort will be made to give those Negroes in America who are dissatisfied with their present station in society an opportunity to migrate and settle in Liberia. Bishop C. S. Smith, of Detroit, Mich., of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, is in New York on his way to western Africa to see what may be done.

"Opportunity to settle in western Africa will be given to the thousands of Negroes who are praying for relief from the injustice and

discrimination to which they are subjected if my mission there proves successful," said Bishop Smith last night.

Bishop Smith addressed the congregation of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, in West 25th street last night, on the Negro question. Of the President's order, dismissing without honor the three Negro companies of the 25th Infantry, he said:

"I have not the remotest idea that color entered into the consideration of the order of dismissal, nor do I wish to be considered as criticizing the President, in whom I have the greatest confidence; but the President's action is contrary to the public sense of established justice. That 150 men should be punished for the wrongdoing of eight men is, to say the least, contrary to the spirit of fair dealing.

"The part I don't like about the President's order in particular is that it was made public the day after election. This savors of political intrigue. If it had been issued before election I am sure that the result in many congressional districts would have been different. It certainly would have meant that Hughes' plurality in this State would have been cut down and possibly Hearst might have been elected."

Referring to Senator Tillman's statement in a speech at Atlanta, Ga., that "there are not enough Yankees between Cape Cod and hell to prevent southern people from doing as they please with the Negro," Bishop Smith said that "there are not enough Tillmanites between Cape Cod and hell to hurl the American Negro back into slavery or permanently impair his onward march."

Bishop Smith characterized the Rev. Thomas Dixon, Jr., as a degenerate son of perdition, who has stolen the livery of heaven to serve the devil," and who "has forfeited his right to live, deserves to die and to die the death of a cur dog."—*The Evening Star.*

Departure of Dr. Blyden.—Dr. Blyden leaves for West Africa on the 6th proximo to direct the Mecca pilgrimage enterprise, and we understand he will make Dakar or Rufisque his headquarters, but will first of all visit other places, including Lagos. A central agency will be established in Senegal and another at Lagos to serve the Yoruba country and northern Nigeria. The Doctor will be assisted by two Mohammedan young men acquainted with the native languages spoken between Sierra Leone and the French Congo. Governor General Roume is taking a great interest in this pilgrimage venture, and it is expected that he will lend his influence to the enterprise, as he thoroughly understands its political and commercial bearings. Dr. Blyden is sure that if the event is not so successful as anticipated a great deal will have been done in bringing East and West together in developing the agricultural interest generally and the cotton-growing enterprise particularly, and also increasing commercial relations.—*The African World, September* 29, 1906.

Bishop Hartzell and His Mother.—Mrs. Nancy Worman Hartzell, the mother of Bishop Hartzell, will be ninety years old October 5th, and the Bishop was sixty-four the first day of June.. It was indeed a great joy to both mother and son that they could be together at the old homestead at Moline, Illinois, on his birthday. Many of the old friends called upon them, and together they visited the farm where the son was born, and other places of interest.

Mrs. Hartzell is the mother of thirteen children, ten of whom are living, seven daughters and three sons; has twenty-eight grandchildren, of whom twenty-four are still living; twenty-four great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Mrs. Hartzell, whose late husband organized the first Methodist class in Rock Island, is herself interested in all church work, attends services regularly, and recently addressed the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Quincy, Illinois, on "My Son's Parish."

Our sincere congratulations are extended to the Bishop and his mother.—*Liberia and West Africa.*

Teach the Negro to Farm—Booker Washington Defends His Race as Agricultural Workers.—New York, November 27.—Industrial education, with special emphasis upon agricultural training, as the solution of the Negro problem, was advocated by Booker T. Washington, Dr. Lyman Abbott, Dr. Felix Adler, and Principal H. B. Frissell, of Hampton Institute, yesterday afternoon at the annual meeting of the Armstrong Association, held at the residence of William J. Schieffelin, president of the association, 5 East 66th street.

The Armstrong Association was established about ten years ago by personal friends of Gen. S. C. Armstrong, the founder of Hampton Institute, and has for its purpose the stimulating of public interest in the industrial education of the Negro.

Mr. Washington said that the thing most needed in settling the Negro question is to push the matter of agricultural training to fit the Negroes to remain in the country districts.

"Our people, at their worst in the city, are as a rule at best in the country. Anything to get them in love with the soil and its cultivation is the principle we are emphasizing at Tuskegee. In this way a definite and helpful contact with the white farmer is being established, as instanced in the annual visit and inspection of several hundred white farmers from a farmers' institute near Tuskegee to the institution."

Mr. Washington said that at a fair in Montgomery, Ala., soon after the Atlanta riots, he had mingled among the thousands of white people who thronged the department devoted to Negro exhibits in an effort to discover the real sentiment of southern men with regard to the Negro.

"During the entire week and among crowds of southern white people in every walk of life—merchants, farmers, workers—I did not

hear a single unkind remark. In addition, the Negroes in charge of exhibits were overwhelmed with congratulations on the splendid work shown. I feel strongly that the southern white man, deep in his heart, is interested in the elevation of the Negro."

Lyman Abbott said that the secret of Hampton, Tuskegee, and other industrial institutions is that they teach the Negroes to do something in the world by training the ambition for industry.

Dr. Adler said that Hampton should not only be a link between the white and black, but must also become a link between the North and South. "I have observed a hardening of feeling toward the Negro in both the North and South. The crude sentiment of the North is assimilating itself with the cruder sentiment of the South. There is a less considerate feeling toward the Negro than in abolition days, because the poorer sentiment of the North is descending to the vehement view of a like element in the South. On the other hand, the notable spokesmen of the best southern opinion are standing side by side with similar men of the North. The best results are to be gained when three elements—the best representatives of northern sentiment, of southern sentiment and the Negro leaders—stand and work together on this question.—*The Evening Star.*

Tuskegee's Struggle—Andrew Carnegie Wears Shoes Made by Students.—Booker T. Washington, in a talk at the Church of the Paternity, New York, said that last year when Andrew Carnegie paid a visit to the Tuskegee Institute he ordered a pair of shoes from the shoe department conducted there by the Negro students.

"And he liked them so well when I saw him not long ago," went on the speaker, "that now he has ordered two more pairs."

The church was filled last night by 7.30 o'clock, a half hour before the services were due to begin. Chairs were placed in front and between the rows of benches for the people that crowded into the church. The subject chosen by Mr. Washington was "The Negro Problem." He made no mention of the Brownsville affair or the recent assaults and lynchings in Georgia.

Instead he delivered an address of hope, after which the Rev. Frank Oliver Hall asked that a collection be taken up for the Tuskegee Institute.

"People often ask me why it is that I am so hopeful of the future of our school, of schools like it that are growing up and multiplying, and of the Negro race in the United States," said Mr. Washington. "And all, in spite of the difficulties that are before us, discouraging things that sometimes seem to be insurmountable.

"When the institute was first started back in the eighties I decided that I would have the boys make the bricks out of which our buildings were to be made. People told me that was unheard of. I got a lot of the boys together, however, and we started in to make bricks. I didn't know a thing about it, but the boys thought I did.

"The first lot of bricks we molded were pretty tough-looking characters. We piled them up into a kiln, but when we were half through with it the thing tumbled in. We molded 80,000 bricks next time. We got the kiln made, but it tumbled down before we could fire it. The next time we made twice as many bricks, piled them into a kiln, fired them, and got them nearly done when one morning at 3 o'clock one of the students knocked at my door and told me that the third and largest kiln had also tumbled in.

"Well, our money had given entirely out by that time, and we had to have a little money even to keep on trying to make brick. I went to Montgomery and pawned my watch for $11, and I have had great respect for pawnbrokers since then. We bought a few little things, made a huge kiln of better brick than we had molded before, and completed them without any accident. We've been making brick ever since; last year we made millions of them.

"Another thing. I was advised to call one of the girls in one day to tell her that her grades were such that she couldn't graduate with her class. She said: 'Well, I'm going to get some good out of the training you've given me here.' She went to a little town, took hold of the small public school, and added to it room by room with the proceeds of the cotton and other things she and her students raised.

"She taught the Negroes how to sell their cotton, how to leave cheap jewelry and whisky alone, how to avoid being cheated in the simplest ways. Room by room she added to the schoolhouse, and month by month she added to the school year. We were proud to call her back to the institution and give her that diploma which we hadn't sense enough to give her in the first place.

"Already 6,000 students have left Tuskegee Institute. Some of them are going into all parts of the South and doing such work as that girl did. And so it is that when I think of the growing hundreds of our students who will do such work as hers in every small part of the South, and when I think of our first four brick kilns I can easily be hopeful of the future, however dark the clouds may be that lower sometimes over the black race in this land."—*The Evening Star.*

Mrs. Jane Roberts.—We are informed by the Hon. S. T. Prout, Postmaster General of Liberia, who has just returned from his trip to England, that Mrs. Jane Roberts, wife of the Hon. J. J. Roberts, first President of Liberia, is still alive and residing at 55 Brynmear, Battersea Park, with Mr. R. Archer and his good lady.

It is a pleasure for any Liberian to meet her and enjoy her company. She is positively religious, cheerful and happy, though 85 years old and in a foreign country far away from her home, friends, and the land she loves so dearly.

Although in England, she declares and has made arrangements that at her death her body is to be returned embalmed to Liberia.

Her Consul General, the Hon. Henry Hayman, who is very good to her, will see that this is done. Mr. Prout feels that this will be a great day in Liberia when her body is returned. This dear, good woman has made large donations to the church of her choice, also toward the building of a hospital in Monrovia for the relief of humanity.

The family with which she is boarding in England, Mr. Archer and lady are as kind to her and caress her as though she was a blood relation of theirs.

Mr. Prout, speaking of the Archer family thinks that it would be a fitting and an honorable act if the Republic of Liberia would in some way recognize the great services of this good man and lady some way recognize the great services of this good man and lady to one of Liberia's most illustrious mothers.—*Liberia and West Africa.*

INTERVIEW WITH THE HONORABLE S. T. PROUT, POSTMASTER GENERAL OF LIBERIA.—The Hon. S. T. Prout, who had left here to recruit his health abroad, returned on Thursday, the 16th of August, by the *Brutu* in company with his daughter, Mrs. G. L. Cooper, and Mr. J. B. Watson, postmaster of Grand Cape Mount—all of them looking well.

Mr. Prout, on being interviewed, speaks most enthusiastically of his trip to England and of the many kind persons who spared no pains to make his visit the most enjoyable. Among these he mentions the Hon. Ellis Edwards, Liberian consul at Liverpool; the vice-consul, Mr. Verspreween; Messrs. Edwards Brothers, Lionel Hart & Co., Sir Alfred Jones, and his colleague, Mr. Davey, in the Elder, Dempster Company, Mr. W. D. Woodin, and many others too numerous to name. In company with Mr. J. B. Watson he visited the central post office, Liverpool, where the postmaster, Mr. Salisbury, and his chief clerk, Mr. Barret, kindly received them, taking them around all the departments—the technical, telegraphic, telephone, and others. Mr. Prout regards this visit and the one at the Bank of England, where he availed himself of the kindest courtesy of the governor and staff, who introduced him to all the departments, as being very instructive. He hopes for the introduction at no distant date of the telegraph into Liberia, connecting the general post offices of Liberia and England.

During his visit to London the Hon. Henry Hayman, consul-general of Liberia, who takes great interest in the postal as well as the other departments of this Republic, extended to him every act of kindness. Through his good will Mr. Prout was enabled to visit the general post office, and to attend to much business in connection with the money order branch of his department, having been introduced to several of the officers and taken all round to the various departments of the post office. He says the staff consists of 7,000 hands, the letter collectors and distributors through the city alone amounting to 1,200. "This," he continued, "gives but a very faint idea of the business done by this department."

Mr. W. L. Hayman, cousin of the consul-general, also is much interested in the affairs of Liberia and had aided Sir Harry Johnston in designing the latest beautiful set of the Liberian stamps issued by the postmaster general.

It was due to the courtesy of the consul-general that Mr. Prout had an invitation from the Right Hon. Henniker Heaton, M. P., to visit the British Parliament, where, taking a place in the gallery, he listened to the discussions of the House of Commons, having been introduced to a good number of those present and taking tea with them on the terrace. At the House of Lords, whither he was escorted, he enjoyed the distinguished honor of being asked to take a seat in the Woolsack, where the Lord Chancellor sits.

Mr. Prout visited, besides many other places of interest, also the British Museum; the historic Hampton Court, where he saw the time honored relics of England; and the London Bridge. Here he partook of the privilege of the winding stairs to the highest point of the Tower, thence descending to the engine room underground, where he and his party beheld the "marvelous mechanism of this gigantic structure."

The Elder, Dempster Company was extremely accommodating and acceded to certain important concessions offered by Mr. Prout in relation to his work in Liberia.

The postmaster general believes that personal contact has much to do with the success he has attained, and is convinced that the advantage in Liberians going abroad can hardly be overestimated.—*Liberia and West Africa.*

Bishop Scott and His Work in Liberia.—Private letters and newspaper reports from the United States bring the news of Bishop Scott's abundant labors and the widespread interest he is awakening among the people there in behalf of his work in Liberia. Ever since his arrival in the United States he has been busy filling engagements to lecture and deliver addresses before large and enthusiastic audiences, who show practical interest in his work by liberally contributing to it and by individuals offering themselves as workers if needed. *The Southwestern Christian Advocate* of July 25 devotes considerable space to the Bishop and his work. On the cover of the paper occupying the entire page is a splendid likeness of the Bishop, and elsewhere in this issue Bishop Scott in an interview tells interestingly of Liberia and his work. In this same number is Dr. Lyon's consular report on the work of the Methodist Episcopal church in Liberia, and in a leader entitled "Our Interest in Liberia" the editor gives official expression and emphasis to all that is said, and furthermore, urges that the conferences enter earnestly upon a systematic canvass to raise at an early date the $25,000 pledged by the New Orleans Missionary Convention. To this we heartily say amen.

Our work in Liberia has reached a point in its history when aggressive work among the millions of unchristianized natives in our great and resourceful hinterland should become the ideal and passionate work of the conference.

It is necessary now to adopt such a policy if we would justify our claim as a missionary force in Liberia and do the legitimate work the Missionary Society and the church have a just reason to expect of us. Nothing is more manifest than this. While we heartily welcome all that is being done for us by friends abroad, we nevertheless feel that there is something for us to do for ourselves. We would suggest that as a beginning let as large a per cent. as possible of the older and stronger charges on the coast that have been receiving missionary money all these years be placed upon an honorary list of self-supporting churches and strenuously endeavor to maintain themselves, so that the money thus saved may be used exclusively for work among the heathen, who are in deeper need than ourselves. Nothing would more thoroughly inspire the church in America with confidence in the work in Liberia than to know that a considerable part of the old work has become self-supporting, and that special effort is being made to reach the heathen whom up to this time we have largely neglected.

Bishop Scott has a great and difficult work before him, and is eminently deserving of all that may be said to awaken and deepen interest in the work and to raise funds and secure increased appropriations, especially for work among the heathen. We have here a great work: vast and inviting fields, big with possibilities, white to harvest are before us. Liberia is Christian by only a very small per cent. Its evangelization is yet afar off unless a more aggressive missionary spirit quickens the dormant energies of the church in the prosecution of its work. Regions within only a few days walk from the coast lie yet untouched and unoccupied by the church. A superior and more promising class of natives are there anxiously awaiting the benefits of school and the gospel. To enter these fields now seems our plain and imperative duty, and there is very much there that promises larger and more permanent results than have ever yet come to the work in all its previous history on the sea coast. We trust that Bishop Scott will receive such encouragement as shall enable him to inaugurate at once a strong forward movement among the heathen, and thereby inspire the church in America with greater hope for our work, as well as infuse a yet larger missionary life among all our workers.—*Liberia and West Africa.*

Republic of Liberia.—Resources Poorly Developed and Commerce Small.—Consul-General Ernest Lyon writes that the natural resources of Liberia are many and varied. He says:

The products consist of cocoa, ginger, piassava, cola, coffee, and such valuable woods as ebony, cedar, mahogany, walnut, oak, and

corkwood. Some of these are almost indestructible, and resist the attacks of the African bugabugs, a species of insect which raids buildings, and in a short time renders the woodwork useless. Of the minerals, iron ore, mica, crystal quartz, and granite are distributed in abundance throughout the republic. Indigeneous fruits and vegetables are plentiful, such as pineapples, cocoanuts, pawpaws, oranges, plums, guava, and ground nuts. The pineapple grows without cultivation to a large size, and is sweet and delicious. Some cultivate the pineapple for private use, and the improvement is very marked. The only reason why this fruit has not been exported is because it has not been produced in sufficient quantities to attract outside attention. Especially is this true of cotton, which grows abundantly on the Mandingan plains, and supplies material for all the clothing for the interior tribes. Kasada is one of the most useful breadstuffs in Liberia. It is used for bread, as a vegetable, for making starch, and for gruel and other dishes.

The total foreign trade of Liberia for 1905 amounted to $1,214,363, of which $669,525 were imports and $544,828 exports. The imports and exports were distributed among the following countries: Germany, imports $359,784, exports $299,272; England, imports $271,066, exports $237,984; Holland, imports $17,450, exports $7,467; United States, imports $8,303, exports nothing; and all other countries, imports $12,932, exports $4. The principal articles of import consisted of cottons valued at $118,941; rice, $76,254; fish, $54,638; spirits, wine, and malt liquors, $38,471; boots and shoes, $23,820; clothing, $33,193; tobacco, $28,603; provisions, $34,064; manufactures of iron and steel, $21,465, and breadstuffs, $13,751. The chief exports were piassava, valued at $164,594; coffee, $136,705; palm kernels, $148,941; palm oil, $39,526, and ginger, $19,797.

There are no banks at present in Liberia. An attempt on the part of some French capitalists to establish a banking institution proved a failure, as Liberians did not take kindly to the project. In the absence of banks, certain merchants, principally the Dutch and Germans, serve the dual purpose of bankers and brokers, greatly to their advantage. Besides the circulation of English and American currency, both of which are freely used in Liberia, there is a small volume of Liberian currency, and there is also a demonetized paper currency. So long as this system of meeting local obligations with a depreciated currency, negotiable at 40 to 50 per cent. discount, obtains, the result will be disastrous. Merchants in the United States who effect deals in Liberia should be careful to stipulate in their contracts that all settlements must be paid in gold or such currency as can be redeemed in gold.—*Monthly Consular and Trade Reports.*

Utilizing Waste Materials.—Many Millions in Value from By-products Made Out of "Waste."—Great changes have taken place in recent years in making use of what was once considered absolutely

waste material, and as a result many millions of dollars have been added to the wealth of the nation.

Sawdust was looked upon at one time as waste material, says Moody's Magazine, but during the last few years a process has been discovered which has given sawdust a value greater than that of solid lumber. By the use of hydraulic pressure and intense heat the particles are formed into a solid mass capable of being molded into any shape and of receiving a brilliant polish. The only materials used are sawdust, alum, and glue. Imitation marble can be manufactured from a mixture of sawdust with ivory waste, water, glass, and glue. In Norway acetic acid, wood naphtha, tar, and alcohol are produced on a commercial scale out of sawdust.

Factories have been erected in this country and in Europe for converting pine needles into forest wool. This is used for mattresses and furniture, for manufacture into hygienic articles such as undervests and chest protectors. The principal use of sawdust seems destined to be in the production of sugar and alcohol. It is practically pure cellulose, and easily convertible into those products. For many years bituminous coal operators threw away slack as waste. Now it commands at the mines 75 cents a ton. The increase is largely due to the demand coming from makers of cement. Formerly they bought lump coal and pulverized it. Now they use slack. Quartz rock was not long ago considered worthless. Now glass is made from it. Coffins, tombstones, bricks, tilings, and similar articles can be made of this glass.

Packing establishments have a long list of by-products. The blood of the slaughtered animals is congealed and manufactured into buttons, and is also utilized in the production of albumen for the use of calico printers, the sugar refiner, the tanner, and others. The bones are used for a score of different purposes, being manufactured into knife and toothbrush handles, chessmen, combs, backs of brushes, mouthpieces of pipes, and various other articles. Black hoofs are used in the manufacture of cyanide of potassium for gold extraction, and also ground up to make fertilizer. Many articles, such as glue, fly paper, sandpaper, gelatine, isinglass, curled hair, bristles, wool felt, laundry soap, ammonia, etc., are now made from the former waste products of the abattoir.

The annual value of the by-products of the packing industry, all of which are manufactured out of what was considered waste material thirty years ago, is approximately $200,000,000. Cotton seed not very long ago was waste matter, giving considerable trouble to get rid of; but in 1900 the by-products from cotton seed were valued in this country at more than $42,000,000, which has probably doubled by this time. The vice-president of the Standard Oil Company is authority for the statement that for the last ten years more than one half of the profits of the company have been made out of the manufacture of by-products.—*Monthly Consular and Trade Reports.*